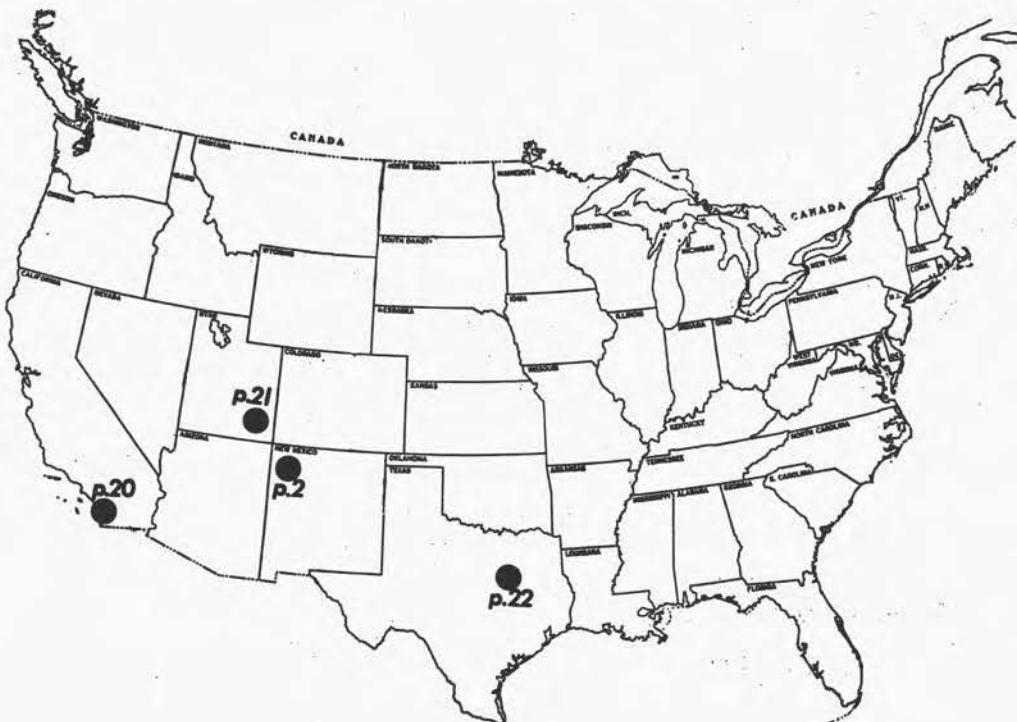


Strange Phenomena Singular Events UFOs Quirky Nations Goofball Ideas



In This Issue

- PAGE 2 --- THE GALLUP INCIDENT, OR...MAYBE CHICKEN LITTLE WAS RIGHT
 PAGE 8 --- MORE FUEL FOR C. LITTLE'S FIRE
 PAGE 16 --- THE FUTURE LIES AHEAD
 PAGE 17 --- DR. DEE'S CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN 1586
 PAGE 17 --- PROPULSION PROPOSAL
 PAGE 18 --- AN OPEN LETTER TO UFO INVESTIGATORS RE: THE BOOKS OF SALVADOR FREIXEDO
 PAGE 20 --- LITE UFOLOGY
 PAGE 20 --- ZOODDITIES
 PAGE 21 --- THE ABAJO BUSHMAN: A SINGULAR CREATURE IN UTAH
 PAGE 22 --- A TEXAS SKYFALL?
 PAGE 23 --- THE EDUCATION OF THE XENOLOGIST
 PAGE 24 --- UNCOMMON CLAIMS - UNGUARANTEED OBSERVATIONS
 PAGE 25 --- THE FINAL TRUTH...THE DESTINY OF MANKIND.. THE SECRET OF THE AGES...THE MEANING OF LIFE - ALL REVEALED HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME

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THE GALLUP INCIDENT, or.....



Maybe Chicken Little Was Right!

Wednesday, January 12, 1983. Weatherwise, a nice evening in northwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado, especially for that time of year. Events occurred that night in this Four Corners country which have yet to be fully explained and enumerated. Frankly, we will not do that here. We have been able to accumulate bits and pieces of information and can present a superficial overview of the happenings that night. CRUX's investigation will continue, as we still have leads to follow-up and pursue. We will begin with a summary of the news accounts of the event(s) and move on from there.

The article in the Farmington, New Mexico *Daily Times* of Thursday, January 13, 1983 was headlined: "Goodness Gracious-Great Ball of Fire". Reporter Rex Graham began as follows:

What investigators believe was a meteor smashed into the side of a mountain about 15 miles east of Gallup Wednesday about 5:50 PM, starting a fire and causing a deluge of calls to the McKinley County Sheriff's office. The incident is believed to be part of a broad "meteor shower" that caused sonic booms in Gallup, Farmington, Aztec, Bloomfield and north to at least Durango, Colo.

The events of the night of January 12th occurred over an area approximately 150 miles wide, north-to-south, from at least Durango on the north to an area east and south of Gallup, New Mexico. Rex Graham's article continued:

Padilla (McKinley County Sheriff Benny Padilla of Gallup) said today that his office had received 126 calls after as many as seven "booms" were heard by area residents beginning at 5:50 PM and continuing until about 8 PM. Undersheriff Jack Graham quickly drove east of Gallup to investigate a fire burning on a hillside in the Springstead area thought to be connected with the "explosion-like noises". Padilla and Graham initially feared an airplane had crashed. Graham walked

through darkness and over five miles of rugged terrain to investigate the fire. But Graham found only an empty crater about 25 feet across and six inches deep. There was no sign of a plane wreckage. Then, about 10 PM Padilla and Gallup chief of police Frank Gonzales were driving in the area when they saw a "green object" traveling toward the ground.

If that time is anywhere-near-correct, that means that the occurrences of that evening were noted not only over an area of approximately 150 miles, but over a period of at least four hours. Back to Rex Graham's article:

"It looked like a fireball", Padilla said today, "and it disintegrated before it hit the ground". "It was kind of scary", Padilla said, "We thought it was that Russian satellite coming down". To find out, New Mexico State Police investigators called the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo. early this morning. But NORAD officials told them they didn't know anything about the incident. Kay Comnier, a NORAD spokeswoman, said today the incident was not caused by "a decaying space object, but it was possibly a meteorite". "It was not Cosmos 1402", Ms. Comnier said, referring to a Soviet nuclear satellite reportedly due to fall back to earth at any time.

Cosmos 1402 was reported to be a Soviet maritime surveillance satellite that was used in tracking the movement of ships, primarily those of the U.S. Navy. The satellite's orbit had begun to deteriorate and its re-entry was anticipated, although it was not known exactly when and where it would fall. The satellite's atomic reactor was believed to contain about 100 pounds of enriched uranium. The U.S. Department of Energy's semi-secret Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST) was anticipating the possibility of launching another retrieval operation, much as NEST had done in 1978, when another Soviet nuclear satellite fell over Canada's Northwest Territories. As it turned out, most of the Cosmos 1402 fell into the Indian Ocean (after much of it disintegrated, it was thought) on January 23, 1983, with the balance re-entering in February. More from Rex Graham's article of January 13, 1983:

(Ms. Comnier) said that while the state police report of a fireball is characteristic of a meteorite, two reports of explosions several hours apart is not consistent with a single meteorite. She said the chances of more than one meteor falling was unlikely. But Sheriff Padilla said the series of booms heard in New Mexico and Colorado was probably caused by a "meteor shower". According to Padilla, the sonic booms resulted when the meteors entered the earth's atmosphere at supersonic speeds. Theoretically, all but one burned up before hitting the ground. Ms. Comnier said the trajectory of a meteor is "completely different" from that of a man-made space object and would not have been detected by NORAD monitors. Dean Gensamer, assistant facility manager of Federal Aviation Administration operations at the Albuquerque Airport, said today he had no report of any flash on a radar screen.

It can be interesting and instructive (or sometimes merely confusing) to compare and contrast 2 different newspaper articles (from different papers) on the same subject and on the same date. The following is a portion of an article by reporter Chip Hinds which appeared in the Durango, Colorado *Herald* of January 13, 1983:

...A meteor shower, classified aircraft, a methane gas explosion and sonic booms have been offered as explanations for the booms heard between 5:30 and 8 p.m. Seven loud booms were reported in New Mexico but only two or three were heard in Durango and parts of La Plata County in Colorado. Windows rattled and buildings were shaken in Durango and Farmington. One Durango resident in northwest Durango said the boom was so loud and intense that she thought a car had run into (her) house. She even checked throughout the house to see if any damage had been done. Other area residents reported homes being shaken by the booms throughout the town and even onto the Florida Mesa.

In 1984, CRUX interviewed Lynn Bartels, a reporter for the Gallup, NM *Independent* in January of 1983. She knew residents of a house trailer in Gallup (over 120 miles from Durango) who, when the boom(s) occurred, were convinced for a split second that a car had struck their house trailer. There

was even a rumor of a house in the Gallup area that was moved off its foundation by the concussion, but neither Bartels nor anyone else we've interviewed had knowledge of such an event. Chip Hinds' Durango Herald article continued...

Durango Police dispatcher Ruth Mastin reported that her office was told by Federal Aviation Agency officials in Grand Junction that the noise was created by "classified military aircraft" and that they had been instructed not to answer any further questions.

Law enforcement officials in New Mexico speculated that the booms were caused by falling meteorites, a downed airplane, a methane gas explosion or a sonic boom created by an aircraft breaking the sound barrier. McKinley County Sheriff Benny Padilla in Gallup, N.M., said that a "green object" which "slowed, struck the ground and went out" was spotted near there.

Although they were not sure if the two events are related, authorities in New Mexico investigated a fire that broke out in a rugged area seven miles east of Gallup, New Mexico, at approximately the same time as the booms. New Mexico State Police Lt. John Toney said the area was too rugged to reach by four-wheel-drive vehicle but Bill Johnson of the state police surveyed the scene of the fire by helicopter Thursday morning. Johnson said he could spot "no metal at all, no sign of indentation". McKinley County Undersheriff Jack Graham was the only investigating officer to trek into the site on foot Wednesday night. The combined report of Graham and Johnson said they found smoldering dead wood in a patch 3 feet wide by 75 feet long. One report said the fire was still burning after daybreak and was visible from Interstate 40 near the McGaffey exit east of Gallup. A crater was found next to the blaze, but officers said they do not know if the crater was related to the fire or had been there for some time. State Police in New Mexico speculated that the fire was caused by underground gas exploding, a meteor or dynamite.

Dr. Ron Gooley of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M., was reported to have said the booms were caused by meteorites breaking the sound barrier. He said he was surprised so many people saw the showers but indicated that they were not uncommon.

CRUX interviewed Dr. Gooley almost two years after the events of that night. He had no difficulty recalling the affair. But contrary to the report above (and remembering that reporter Hinds did not actually talk to Gooley), Dr. Gooley's comment to us was:

I was finally convinced that the fires and the explosions that they heard out there were not from meteorites. Meteorites, in the first place, don't cause fires. I guess there was a report of people using dynamite out there and I don't remember if anybody ever knew why. Over distance sometimes you don't hear dynamite, but you can actually feel it (ed.note: a comment to remember for later).

We mentioned that the events apparently took place over a period of several hours.

Well, that's the other thing. Certainly one meteorite is not going to last for a couple of hours - perhaps for a few seconds. I suppose the booms could have been from a meteorite if only one was heard, but not over a period of time.

We asked what he knew about the reports of green fireballs.

I understand somebody did see a fireball. I kind of suspect that was coincidental. I'm not sure... shooting stars sometimes can have a little greenish tinge.

I was finally satisfied that it was not a meteorite. To my knowledge, no fragments were found - and I saw a lot of pictures, both on television and even at work a little bit - of the area. As soon as I heard there were trees burning, that sort of thing, I dismissed the idea of a meteorite, because at no time in history has a meteorite ever caused a fire.

Chip Hinds concluded his Durango Herald article of 1/13/83 as follows:

A Farmington man, Rick Wilkie, reported seeing hunks of "a meteor falling off" as the meteor came in from the western sky as he was watching from a point about 25 miles southwest of Farmington. Research associate Norman Thomas of the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz., said authorities should be "skeptical of any meteor theory unless a thorough investigation is made". North American Air Defense officials said they are investigating but don't know what caused the sounds. Inquiries to the FAA Thursday morning were referred to Lowry Air Force base in Denver but a public information spokesman at that base said they had no knowledge of the booms.

Then there were the wire service reports. From an Associated Press story dated January 13, 1983:

McKinley County Sheriff Bernie(sic) Padilla says a fire on a high plateau east of Gallup was "definitely caused" by a meteorite or some foreign object - but not a crashed plane. The blaze was reported after the McKinley County sheriff's office, state police in Gallup and Gallup city police were deluged Wednesday evening by residents reporting at least two explosion-like noises. Padilla said Undersheriff Jack Graham climbed the plateau to the fire site in the dark Wednesday night and found some trees ablaze and others knocked down. Graham also found a crater next to the blaze, but officers said they do not know if the crater was related to the fire or had been there for some time....The plateau was difficult for investigators to reach because of two feet of snow in the area, and police today used a helicopter loaned by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Albuquerque. Calls about the explosion noises began about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday and continued through the night...Police said residents reported hearing at least two loud explosions. The sheriff's department reported receiving more than 100 telephone calls from area residents. Several callers told police the noises sounded like a plane crash, but there were no reports of any missing or over-down airplanes, police said.

The United Press International release of January 13th reported, in part:

A shower of meteors apparently struck NW New Mexico late Wednesday in a "big green ball of fire", setting off six booming sounds heard 120 miles away and leaving a 25-foot crater...The sounds between 5:50 p.m. and 8 p.m. MST Wednesday rattled windows in Gallup and Farmington, causing dogs to howl and bark...Sheriff Padilla said he and Gallup Police Chief Gonzales saw at least one of the meteors "come down about 10 miles south of where we were. It was a big green ball of fire, but evidently it disintegrated before it hit the surface. The six booming sounds were probably meteors breaking the sound barrier as they plummeted toward earth, disintegrating before impact. My undersheriff, Jack Graham, walked into the area about 11 p.m. and found several trees on fire, burned from top to bottom. Also, there was a 25-foot crater that had separated the ground in several places. Evidently when it hit it disintegrated. It hit on top of the bluff and on the side of it, knocking a few trees down".

The UPI story had been headlined "Meteors May Have Landed in New Mexico". An Associated Press story of Friday, January 14th, was headlined (in the Grants, NM Daily Beacon) "Dynamite, Not Meteorite, Cause of Big Boom Near Gallup". It reported:

McKinley County Undersheriff Jack Graham says he believes explosions on a high plateau east of here that sparked a fire and speculation a meteorite slammed to earth were caused by dynamite. "We're pretty sure someone was trying to get rid of some dynamite...and didn't know it would cause this kind of problem", Graham said...Graham said he went to the scene and could see where it looked like someone had put dynamite. He said he could smell dynamite and had found a little piece of

tape that binds blasting cap wires. "Apparently the guy made several bundles of dynamite and let the fire take its toll", he said. He said it's also believed dynamite was used in another area about one mile northeast of where the fire occurred. Authorities were looking today for a man in his 20s with curly blond hair who was seen in the area 30 to 45 minutes before the first explosion, Graham said. The man, carrying a backpack and a rifle was reported by a resident in the area. It had been reported that a team of scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology would be arriving at the site today. A man who identified himself as Curt Johnson from MIT telephoned a Gallup radio station and said he and the team of investigators would be in Gallup. However, MIT said later there was no one of that name at MIT. Graham said he and other officers trying to get to the fire site Wednesday night "saw a falling star or a meteorite fall, and it burned longer than it should. I saw three or four falling stars, lasting longer than usual, about 15 or 20 seconds", he said. But Graham said it apparently was just a coincidence. He said, however, that officers would search today in the Cibola National Forest about 25 miles southeast of where the fire occurred for a possible meteorite. "Some of the residents up there reported being hit with gas, which dried their lips and made them nauseous", Graham said.

As we shall see, we were later able to learn a little more regarding this "gas". On Friday, January 14th, the local paper in Gallup headlined their front-page story: "Explosions, Fire baffle authorities". The article was by the reporter we previously mentioned, Lynn Bartels. She is no longer with the Gallup paper, the *Independent*, but has moved on to another job in Albuquerque. Excerpts from her article:

...The latest theory for the fire that burned a 75-by-25-foot strip about seven miles east of Gallup off of Interstate 40 is that someone planted several bundles of dynamite, started the fire and then stood back to watch the commotion, McKinley County Undersheriff Jack Graham said today. However, Graham admitted it is hard to tie together the sonic-like booms that rattled windows in Durango with dynamite blasting 3½ miles north of the McCaffey turnout.

Sheriff Benny Padilla, who on Thursday said that the fire and explosions were "definitely caused" by a meteorite or some other foreign object, today declined to give any theories. "Until I have concrete evidence, I don't want to say anything. There's too many rumors going around", the sheriff said. Yet another theory is that the government is doing some kind of testing but doesn't want to say anything. Continental Divide resident Cheyrl Meyers said today there have been numerous military helicopters and vehicles in the area since the investigation began Wednesday.

And Chip Hinds, a reporter with the *Durango Herald*, said today that the Federal Aviation Authority(sic) in Grand Junction, Colo., still denies someone from its office commented on the booms Wednesday. Hinds said a spokesman on Wednesday said there was a classified military aircraft in the area, but not to ask any more questions as it was over. On Thursday morning, FAA authorities said no one from their office issued any statements about the noises, which were first heard at 5:30 p.m.

CRUX called Lynn Bartels at her home in Albuquerque, with the intention of calling Chip Hinds in Durango immediately afterward. Unfortunately, Ms. Bartels informed us that Chip Hinds was killed in a mountaineering accident. Bartels' article continued:

Graham, one of the first officers to reach the rugged fire scene Wednesday, said that when he explored the area Thursday, he could smell dynamite. "I looked around and found pieces of tape that hold the wire together on a blasting cap", the undersheriff said. About four holes were found at the fire site, Graham said. He believes "dynamite packages" then were put in those holes, and a fire was then set. When the flames reached the dynamite, the sticks blew up. However, state police and FBI agents at the scene Thursday morning said they dug large holes to take soil samples. State Police Officer Bill Johnson, at the scene Thursday, said that Graham may have found the holes they dug "because there

were no holes when we were there about 7:30 a.m. The atmosphere "may have been just right", was one explanation the undersheriff gave for the explosions being heard 200 miles north of here. He also said the noise and fire may not be related. "So my theory is - and hardly anyone believes it - that the fire was caused by dynamite", Graham said.

A Springstead resident informed police that someone had been in the area Wednesday afternoon, about a hour before the first boom rocked Gallup, Graham said. The man was carrying a backpack and rifle, police were told. Graham said he did find footprints at the scene Wednesday night, and he intends to follow them today to see if they lead anywhere. Officers at the scene Wednesday were hampered by the rugged terrain and about 2 feet of snow. In addition, they were not able to bring any spotlights into the area. Sheriff's officers, state police and other personnel flew over the fire site and visited it by foot Thursday morning, looking for some sort of debris. State Police Lt. John Toney said the area was still smoldering Thursday morning, but that there was no fire. "I saw no crater, and the only thing I saw was just some burned bushes. Maybe it was a natural phenomenon", he said at a press conference Thursday morning.

Rex Graham of the Farmington *Daily Times* authored an article headlined: "Mysterious Noises Remain a Mystery" which appeared the the January 14th edition of the Farmington paper:

...Two "booms" heard by residents in the Farmington area and in Durango, Colo., about 5:30 p.m. and again sometime after 7 p.m. Wednesday have not been explained....(Undersheriff Jack Graham) said the curiosity of the blast brought people out of their homes Wednesday night. He said sightings of "meteors" may have just been a coincidence. Graham, Sheriff Benny Padilla and Police Chief Frank Gonzales said that while they were investigating the booms they saw a "green object" streak across the sky for about 15 seconds. Padilla said he did not hear a noise when the possible meteor was sighted...State Police Lt. John Toney said today that his department was called at Gallup when officials feared an airplane had crashed. When no plane was found Toney said the search and rescue mission was called off. "Of course we would like to determine what caused the fire, but we may never know", Toney said, I've heard everything from E.T. to dynamite.

Rumors that military aircraft had been involved in the incident were ruled out by the Federal Aviation Administration. Tom Graves, a spokesman for the FAA's Southwest Region, said from Fort Worth, Texas, that air traffic control personnel had no record of private, commercial or military aircraft near Gallup Wednesday night. "If a meteor fell through the atmosphere between radar sweeps, we wouldn't have seen that either", Graves said.

State Police Lt. John Toney said his personal speculation was as good as anyone else's. "I can give you 10,000 names in the Gallup phone book who think they know what happened", Toney said. Asked if dynamite blasts near Gallup could have been heard 125 miles away in Durango, O.J. Britton, a spokesman for the Albuquerque Seismological Center said, "All the atmospheric conditions would have to be just right. It is possible but highly improbable", he said. Britton said other seismologists had detected "sonic booms" Wednesday night in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado.

Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* reported on January 14th:

...Thursday, Graham found five holes about 18 inches deep in the side of the cliff. The holes smelled of blasting powder, and a piece of electrical connecting tape, presumably for detonation purposes, was discovered nearby, Graham said. Graham said the person who ignited the charges "might have been just a kid who wanted to get rid of some dynamite". "With the uranium mines around here, it's fairly easy to obtain".

Yet another version of an Associated Press story of January 14, 1983 (from the El Paso, Texas Times) reported:

State Police Lt. John Toney told a news conference later he saw a burned area about 75 feet across, and it was still smoldering. "I saw no crater, and the only thing that I saw was just some burned brush", he said. Toney said investigators dug down a couple of inches into the soil, and it was hot underneath, but fairly cool on top. Toney said there was "no sign of any impact. I'm baffled", he said. State Police Sgt. Willard Morrow said a representative of the Kerr-McGee Corp. took a geiger counter to the burned area and "there was sign of abnormal radiation counts".

There was also more to come from various UPI dispatches of January 14th. One (Dallas Morning News) mentioned that a State Police radio dispatcher in Gallup fielded about 180 calls from the public that night. Another UPI story of the same date (Valley Courier; Alamosa, Colorado) related

(Undersheriff Jack Graham) said the first explosion (on the mesa) touched off a brushfire which spread slowly, setting off other dynamite bundles in the nearby surrounding area at irregular intervals. Sheriff Ben Padilla, Jr. said Thursday he witnessed a "big green ball of fire" in the sky late Wednesday, followed by at least six possible sonic booms during a 2-hour period. Padilla said it may take several days to analyze soil samples collected at the suspected blast site. "It's really a mystery to us", said Crownpoint (New Mexico) Police Lt. D. K. Thomas. "There's no evidence that a meteor fell, no evidence of an aircraft going down or debris - no evidence that anything fell out there". At Farmington... a woman said she heard what she thought was a sonic boom. "It shook the whole house and rattled the windows", said the woman, who declined to give her name. "The dog started barking and whining like crazy. I thought, Oh, my goodness. What's happening?"

It was reported that residents of the area east of Gallup had heard what they thought was an airplane in trouble on the night of the "booms". On Saturday, Jan. 15, 1983, the headline in the Gallup Independent read: "Noisy Explosions Linked to Aircraft". Reporter Lynn Bartels wrote:

Two "explosion-like" noises which shook buildings in northwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado Wednesday night probably stemmed from military aircraft flying to Tucson, the Independent was told Friday. Two sources, who asked that neither their names nor governmental agency be revealed, said they were told the booms heard about 5:30 p.m. and later Wednesday were from "special aircraft" flying overhead. They had no other details on the noises, which triggered an avalanche of phone calls to agencies in a three-county area. Their information confirms a report from the Federal Aviation Authority spokesman in Grand Junction, Colo., who told news sources at the Durango, Colo. Herald Wednesday night that there were classified military aircraft in the area, and not to ask any more questions about the matter as the maneuver was over. However, the FAA on Thursday morning denied that such a report had been issued, saying its personnel are not allowed release that kind of information. The Independent has not been able to confirm from other sources that military aircraft capable of producing a sonic boom were in the area or headed to Tucson.

A number of theories as to the cause of the explosions have been explored. Some unique sightings, including "a green ball streaking" across the sky Wednesday night, led authorities to believe a meteorite may have caused the noise. McKinley County Sheriff Benny Padilla said the ball disintegrated when it hit a plateau, where officers later discovered a 75 by 25 foot strip of burned trees. Undersheriff Jack Graham said he and other officers trying to get to the site Wednesday night "saw a meteorite fall, and it burned longer than it should. I saw three or four falling stars, lasting longer than usual, about 15 or 20 seconds". On Thursday, Graham visited the site of the fire discovered shortly after the noises were first heard. Graham said there is evidence that dynamite was blasted on the rugged plateau east of Gallup off of Interstate 40. However, he agreed it would be difficult to hear blasting noises as far

away as Durango. Authorities have not tied the fire to the explosions, although on Wednesday evening they believed they were related.

Major Bob Riney, a command post controller at Davis-Monthan Air Force (sic) in Tucson, said Friday that he is not aware of any aircraft which would be capable of achieving a sonic boom landing at the base. In addition, he said there is no aircraft at the base capable of achieving supersonic flight. In addition, Major Gordan Denton with the New Mexico Air National Guard said Friday none of their planes are classified as "noisemakers". The plane would have to be in the "F" category, such as an F-15, F-111 or F-104 to travel at the speed of sound and create a boom, the pilot said.

A Farmington man, Rick Wilkie, reported seeing "hunks of a meteor falling off" as the meteor came in from the western sky as he was watching from a point about 25 miles southwest of Farmington. Wilkie said the spectacle could have been related to what apparently fell near Gallup, but that it looked like it was much closer. Norman Thomas, a research associate at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, said Thursday that people who witness falling meteorites usually believe they are going to land in their area when, in fact, they fall several hundred miles away. State Police said soil samples were taken from the burn site on Thursday. In addition, a representative of the Kerr-McGee Corp. here took a geiger counter to the burned area and "there was no sign of abnormal radiation counts", according to Sgt. Sonny Morrow.

The infamous "burned area" was located above "Stinking Springs Rim", a plateau rim that runs parallel along the north side of Interstate 40 for a few miles east of Gallup (actually between Fort Wingate, an Army munitions depot and the point where the Continental Divide crosses the interstate highway). In an interview with Crux, Jack Graham, who is no longer associated with the McKinley County Sheriff's Office, reported that "We were getting some very high readings" around Stinking Springs Rim. "We would go out there on snowmobiles", Graham said, "And we would have scintillators and geiger counters and every once in a while (readings) would jump up... but we never could pinpoint the area that it was coming from".

In a second article authored by Lynn Bartels in the January 15, 1983 Gallup Independent, she discussed some of the attention that the story had directed toward Gallup:

...An ABC representative called about setting up a direct line from Burbank, Calif., to Albuquerque to go through Gallup to get the story. The Associated Press sent the story nationwide, and when people in nearby Arizona got the news, they too wanted information. Robert Haag, a self-described "meteorite fanatic" called from Tucson on Friday to announce he is offering a \$1000 reward for a piece of meteorite. He added he wants a piece weighing at least a pound. A "green ball of fire" that streaked through the sky Wednesday night and was seen by McKinley County Sheriff Benny Padilla, Gallup Police Chief Frank Gonzales and a number of other people is a stony meteorite, Haag said. The green ball "is a very good sign that a meteorite is coming in", he said. However, like many others, Haag discredited an earlier theory that the fire on a rugged peak 3½ miles north of the McGaffey turnout was started by a falling meteorite. "A meteorite has never started a fire or ever been so hot you couldn't hold it in your hand", he said.

Elsewhere, a reporter for the Denver Post, Kit Miniclier, called the Gallup newspaper to check a United Press International photo that showed a picture of McKinley County Undersheriff Jack Graham standing near a "25 foot crater". Miniclier wondered if there were such a crater. He was told that when state police and FBI officials visited the scene Thursday morning, they reported finding no indentations, suspicious craters or debris that might suggest a plane had crashed.

Crux's interpretation of the photo referred to by Miniclier, after viewing the photo as published in the Farmington Daily Times and interviewing Jack Graham, is that Graham, rather than standing in or near a "crater", is standing on the slope just below the rim or top of the mesa.

On Saturday, January 15th, the Farmington Daily Times reported, in an AP dispatch out of Gallup:

McKinley County Sheriff Bennie(sic) Padilla says soil samples from the area where a mysterious fire broke out on a high plateau east of the city have been sent to the state laboratory for analysis. Authorities hope the analysis will help determine the cause of the fire, which some have said was sparked by dynamite and others have theorized was the result of a meteorite. Undersheriff Jack Graham says he believes dynamite caused a fire. Padilla said, however, he questioned the dynamite theory because of the distance at which the explosions were heard. The noise was reported as far away as the Farmington area and southwestern Colorado. Padilla said explosive testing at the much nearer Fort Wingate can barely be heard in Gallup.

Regarding the soil samples, one confidential source told us that unspecified metallic material was found. When we spoke with Jack Graham, he provided a possible explanation:

I found the tape that keeps the wires of blasting caps together. I found the wire itself - not the lead wire, but the blasting cap wire. I used to work in a mine, so I'm familiar with it. What we dug out of the pock-holes where the caps blew - we were getting tiny pieces of what looked like aluminum. And all of that was what made me believe there was a blasting cap involved in it.

Yet, with his next comment, Graham posed a problem for the aluminum as an explanation for the metal in the soil sample:

(The state police) went up by helicopter and took some soil samples the next morning. But when I went back up, they hadn't taken any samples where the blast - where the pockets were. They took them higher up on the ridge.

We talked with John McBreen, news director at a Gallup radio station, who had a continuing interest in the story. From the sheriff's office, he obtained a soil sample from the area in question. He passed it along to a friend who worked for the state Energy & Mineral Dept. in Santa Fe. The man turned the sample over to a state laboratory in Albuquerque for analysis. He had been told by the people at the lab that, yes, they would have no problem analyzing the sample. Hearing of no results after a month or so, the Santa Fe man called the lab, only to be told that, as it turned out, they did not have the proper equipment to carry out the analysis. He contacted a friend with the FBI who forwarded the sample to an unnamed scientific laboratory in New York. They reported that there was nothing unusual about the soil.

We had acquired one more newspaper report, from the Farmington Daily Times of Sunday, January 16, 1983. Reporter Rex Graham wrote:

A seismograph measuring device at Chaco Canyon used to record ground vibrations around prehistoric ruins there is helping to eliminate some theories explaining a series of strange events in New Mexico Wednesday night. It was a night some won't soon forget. Local residents were sitting down to dinner or TV in their homes about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday evening when their attention was diverted. A loud "boom" echoed across northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. About 20 minutes later, Gallup residents were startled by the first of about seven loud "explosion-like noises".

At first it was thought a plane had crashed. No sign of plane wreckage was found. And while the explosion-like noises were being heard in Gallup the second boom in the Four Corners area echoed across a broad area of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado shortly after 7 p.m.

McKinley County Sheriff Benny Padilla said the noises around Gallup ceased about 8:00 p.m. At about 10 p.m., Graham, Padilla and other law enforcement officials saw a "green fireball" swing across the sky for about 15 seconds, then disappear. This time there was no sound as the meteor vanished. Residents in the Farmington area reported seeing a similar glowing object in the sky.

To many, the booms, meteor sighting and explosion and

fire seemed part of the same phenomenon. Sheriff Padilla offered an explanation that meteors traveling toward the ground at supersonic speeds set off sonic booms before striking earth. He said the multiple booms may have resulted from a "meteor shower".

There were other possibilities. "We thought it was that Russian satellite", Padilla said Thursday. The satellite theory was discounted by those who track them with sophisticated tracking systems. Kay Cormier, a spokeswoman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command said none of the approximately 4,800 man-made satellites now circling the globe fell "at that location or times".

A break seemed to come Thursday afternoon. Undersheriff Graham said he was sure the Gallup explosions were caused by intentionally set dynamite charges. "I could smell the sulphur smell of dynamite", Graham said, "I know that smell real well". Soil samples have been collected for analysis. On the mesa, Graham also found special tape used to attach blasting caps to dynamite sticks. A landowner in the area reported seeing a man leaving the mesa near Springstead about 45 minutes before the first blast was heard. The discovery seemed to raise more questions than it answered.

O. J. Britton, a specialist at the Albuquerque Seismological Center, doubted that explosions in Gallup could have been heard 80 miles north in Farmington or 45 miles further north in Durango, Colorado. Fortunately, a seismograph machine at Chaco Canyon, about midway between Gallup and Farmington was listening to the whole thing. Larry Jaksha, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey, said the machine records earth tremors, sonic booms and other natural and man-made phenomena. "The seismograph station records the Utah International (coal mine) dynamite charges every day", said Jaksha, "But they are larger than a couple of sticks of dynamite". The researcher said the machine at Chaco Canyon picked up two disturbances Wednesday night: one at 5:30 p.m. and another 95 minutes later, or about 7:05 p.m. "We also recorded the same two at Socorro with a time delay", he said.

Jaksha explained that the short time delay in recordings at Socorro indicates that those disturbances originated in northern New Mexico or southern Colorado. He said other seismic recording stations in the state also picked up the 5:30 p.m. and 7:05 p.m. signals. "We've had similar things when people in the Estancia Valley and Mountainair were hearing these things", the geophysicist said. The noises in Farmington, according to Jaksha, appear very similar to the Estancia "sonic booms" several years ago and later confirmed to be caused by military aircraft. "The booms were caused by an airplane", he said. However, he added that: "It was very unusual that they were so widely felt and widely heard".

Jaksha said none of the disturbances in Gallup were large enough to register on the machines. Tom Graves, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration's Southwest office said Friday that air traffic control personnel had no record of private, commercial or military aircraft flying near Gallup on Wednesday night when the noises were heard. Referring to the reported sightings of a possible meteor, he said, "I don't think there is much association between the green thing and the rest of this".

Air Force officials contacted by the Daily Times could not verify that a military plane was in the Four Corners area at the time of the sonic booms. But a spokeswoman for Edwards Air Force Base in California said, "There are a lot of military aircraft around here".

Chaco Canyon is a former national monument which, in 1981, was designated as the Chaco Culture National Historic Park. The park includes some of the most spectacular of the dozens of ruins of the long-vanished Anasazi culture which lie scattered across the San Juan Basin. Crux personnel visited the very remote Chaco Canyon in April of 1983. One of our party, in casual conversation with park superintendent Walter Harriman, brought up the "Gallup Incident". Harriman remarked that a tremendous boom or concussion was felt at Chaco Canyon, with considerable vibration. Harriman had his personnel

check the ruins in the canyon for damage, as there was great concern for some of the weaker walls and structures. Luckily, no significant damage was found. Harriman said that the military then became involved, and the people at Chaco were unable to learn just what had actually happened.

Just to what degree did the military become "involved"? We talked to Mrs. Cheryl Meyers, who had been mentioned in Lynn Bartels' article of January 14th. Mrs. Meyers and her husband, a truck driver, live near the point where the Continental Divide crosses Interstate 40, 25-26 miles east of Gallup. As Jack Graham would also tell us, area residents knew that tests flights of different types of military aircraft, including missiles, were often conducted between the White Sands Missile Range in south-central New Mexico and Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. So it was not totally unheard of to have military activity in the area (even though the area does not lie directly on a White Sands-to-Nellis line). However, Mrs. Meyers pointed out that, during what they assume are and are told are routine military exercises, military activity, in the form of planes and helicopters, is noted on one day but gone the next day. But what was strange about this January 1983 event was that there was "a lot of activity, both light planes and helicopters", for about a week after that night.

Crux talked to a man who resides near the community of Thoreau, a few miles east of the Continental Divide. He was driving home from work on the night of January 12 and he noticed the fire on the mesa that others had reported and that Jack Graham would soon visit on foot. The Thoreau man noticed military choppers around during the next day or two.

The next day, the 13th, Mrs. Meyers' husband drove west on Interstate 40. As he passed along the rim which lies just north of the highway, he noticed "a lot of activity" along and up on the plateau. Traffic was even blocked off along some of the roads leading up to the rim. There were police and sheriff's cruisers and military vehicles, according to Mr. Meyers. At the time, Mr. Meyers was hauling gasoline. There are two large fuel plants in the area: a propane plant near Fort Wingate and a gasoline and Diesel plant further east. The Meyers suspect that a military aircraft crashed and/or exploded, and they feel that the military may have tried to keep the issue as quiet as possible or at least confused, because the incident occurred so close to the fuel facilities. The Meyers "definitely heard the booms". When asked if they sounded like sonic booms, Mrs. Meyers replied:

The "tone" was different. It sounded like something that came from the ground and not from the air. We used to work in the mines a lot. It was more like a giant dynamite explosion. It was the kind of sound that comes from the ground, not from the air.

There were two sounds that they recall hearing. She also felt that they lasted too long to be sonic booms.

We found that the Meyers were among many in the area who believed that a military aircraft may have exploded and/or crashed or that some kind of experiment went awry. We wondered what Jack Graham thought; we talked with him almost two years after the incident:

I really think it was a bunch of things that happened at the same time - just coincidence... I think there were a couple of meteors or meteorites that came down - we saw those... I was the first one to go up to the (fire) scene. I got there about 11:00 o'clock at night... It's very isolated. It was very hard to get to it. It was even harder getting out. I took an alternate route out and it took me twice as long to come out as it did to go in.

There were a bunch of trees on fire - where they had cleared out an area on top of the mesa and pushed these trees off near the edge. There was just a big long row of dead trees where they had pushed them off. And somebody just set fire to them. In fact, they burned and smoldered for several days up there. Then somebody planted a couple of stashes of dynamite. It could have been some other type of explosive.

I really don't believe it was a military experiment. We have a lot of jets breaking the sound barrier a-

round here. Even that night, when I was climbing up on the mountain, I heard a couple more blasts, and right after the blasts, you could hear a jet trailing off.

And yet...

The military assured (radio newsman) John McBreen there had not been a fly-over test of any type of aircraft since, I think, November the 19th before the incident.

Undersheriff Graham apparently saw the same green fireballs reported by his boss, Sheriff Padilla:

(The meteors) had a green glow to them. When I was up on top of the mountain, I saw when they came out of the northwest and headed southeast over McGaffey.

According to Graham's estimate, he was 2 to 3 miles from Sheriff Padilla's location.

Something else occurred that night approximately 15 miles south of the area of the "burn site", in the direction of the community of Ramah. We asked Jack Graham about a quote attributed to him regarding area residents becoming exposed to a "gas" that night, and it "made them nauseous. We asked if he knew one of these people that might talk to us, and we were given a name.

We'll call him "Carl". He has a position in law enforcement and lives on a ranch in a remote area beyond McGaffey. First, there was an explosion. Carl was in the house and he "felt it more than heard it" (recall Mrs. Meyers' statement as well as Dr. Gooley's comment regarding dynamite). Not only did it not sound like a sonic boom; it lasted much too long. "It was different altogether. We've had quite a few of them (sonic booms). They used to set off a lot of them up here, but then people got tired of it and complained and they made them quit".

Carl got up to leave the house to see what was happening. By the time he got outside, the tremor had ceased, but his cattle seemed agitated. He walked 25-20 feet around and away from the house to a vantage point looking southwest...

That's when I saw the fire - just like a big ball of fire - kinda red. It looked like maybe there was an explosion and something started burning and then it just went out. I thought it was a missile that blew up.

He referred to missiles that are shot over the area from White Sands - "Quite a few have blown up in this area". Carl never saw anything airborne - just the glowing fire in an even more remote area which he estimated was perhaps 10 miles southwest. The fire appeared to have ceased completely after about 10 minutes. It had been seen by others in Gallup, maybe 20 miles to the northwest. The dispatcher at the fire department watched it.

The wind, blowing from the west and southwest, bore a bonus for Carl. About 15 to 20 minutes after the fire had died out, Carl was still outside, checking his stock, when he was struck by a noxious odor...

It sure did stink and burn your eyes - kind of gave us a headache - don't know what it was, but it sure did stink.

It was unlike anything Carl had smelled before; he simply knew of nothing with which to compare it. It lasted 35-40 minutes and the effects wore off after a couple of hours. It seemed to have no lasting effect on the livestock. When asked if he knew of anyone else in the area who might have noticed the smell, Carl explained that "everyone else in the area leaves for the winter and we're the only ones who stay in here".

The next day, Thursday, law enforcement personnel used snowmobiles to search the area Carl estimated to be that of the "fire site". It was 4 to 5 miles from the nearest road. There was up to three feet of snow on the ground. Nothing was found.

So what? Meteor falls, fireballs - be they meteors or simply unexplained - even green fireballs - may not be terribly commonplace, yet they are certainly not unprecedented. Nor are mysterious "booms", unexplained explosions or tremors - nor anomalous gases or strange, noxious odor-attacks. Significant here, of course, is their juxtaposition on the night of January 12, 1983. That garnered our attention - as did the obvious confusion and divergence over just what actually happened, why, where, when and how many. Was it all just coincidence, as Jack Graham and others would suggest? Even if it were not, it appeared that the events of that evening - especially since no one seemed to have a handle on what happened - would be quickly lost in the murky catacombs of Forteana.

Then we began to hear the rumors, from sources previously reliable. Some of the bits and pieces were said to be "the word" making the rounds in the military-intelligence-scientific community in New Mexico:

*Some of the confusion resulted from the deliberate injection of mis-or-dis-information. This was necessary to obscure the highly sensitive "truth" of what actually occurred.

*The so-called "fire site" east of Gallup was a dynamite-induced diversion, to direct attention away from the primary site or sites. It is suggested that the armed "backpacker" seen in the area may have been there for that purpose. (Another "casper" from "back East" was reported missing in the Gallup area. No connection, perhaps, and we don't know if he was ever found).

*A "Top Secret" operation was in progress that night, and an aircraft crashed or exploded.

*The aircraft was a highly sensitive and experimental military device, or...

*An extraterrestrial craft crashed or crash-landed. One account says that it sort of skip-crashed, bouncing into or along one site before finally skipping along and coming to rest at a second site. There would be a sort of precedent for this in the account of "The Roswell Incident" (Berlitz & Moore, Grosset & Dunlap, 1980), in which parts of a UFO were said to have crashed or fallen off in the Roswell, New Mexico area, with the balance of the craft finally crashing into the Plains of San Augustin, west of Socorro, New Mexico in 1947 (with the bodies of alien crew members found at the site).

*The primary crash site was somewhere near Chaco Canyon (Chaco Culture National Historic Park).

*A "retrieval" operation ensued, while attention was diverted to Gallup and Farmington and Durango. "Something" (be it terrestrial or extraterrestrial) was removed from the side of the canyon or ravine into which it had crashed. It was transported by air to Kirtland Air Force Base adjoining the city of Albuquerque. It was set down and a protective structure was built around it.

*There were reports of "silver spheres" descending and ascending somewhere in the Gallup area.

*There were also reports of independent investigators in the technical community in Albuquerque who were threatened and/or harassed or otherwise warned to stay away from the Gallup area, after they had expressed interest in pursuing their own investigation of the event(s).

Within a day or two following the incident, attempts were made to telephone individuals in the Gallup & Farmington areas. A CRUX associate was told by a long distance operator that calls were unable to be placed into that area due to a "storm". We've been unable to turn up anyone who recalls such a "storm" (the weather had been perfect on the night of January 12).

Our investigation - and that of others - will continue. And we will announce whatever results might be forthcoming.

More Fuel For C. Little's Fire

In the aftermath of the "Gallup Incident", we began to take note of certain developments. Then we rummaged back through our files and through news clippings furnished by the UFO Newsclipping Service (Route 1 - Box 220; Plumerville, Arkansas 72127). We assembled a group of reports from around the world, covering a few weeks and months both preceding and succeeding "Gallup". None are identical but they feature elements that are at least reminiscent of the Gallup affair.

August 15, 1982

Fremont County, Idaho- near Marysville, Ashton. Several witnesses saw an object flashing blue and green lights and "all different colors" zoom overhead from out of the south until it exploded with "a boom, like thunder in the distance" over the Henry's Fork of the Snake River. A group of campers near the river estimated that it exploded only a few hundred feet away from them over the river. Two teenagers retrieved five pieces of rock from that area of the river. One said one piece was "kind of gooshy", like wet ashes" as he took it from the water. The rocks dried to resemble ashen gray volcanic rock with, it is reported, a "green and yellow glassy central core". (Idaho Falls Post-Register; Nov. 3, 1982).

Late August 1982

Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois. Approximately 35 objects, 5 inches long by 2 inches wide, and all metal and in the shape of the letter "E" apparently fell from the sky onto the property of Mrs. Judy Reeves and some of her neighbors. Mrs. Reeves found some of the capitol "E"s imbedded in a roof. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat of September 2, 1982 reported:

...She took a sample to Scott Air Force Base to see if the metal might have fallen from a plane, but no one had ever seen similarly shaped metal pieces. The FAA office in St. Louis sent a representative to collect the samples. "Everything about it is unusual", said Troy Sims, aviation safety inspector. "It did not come from part of an aircraft. We don't think it fell out of a plane". He said the objects may be stabilizers from an electrical transformer. Illinois Power workers say the items are too small to be from their transformers, Mrs. Reeves said.

September 1982

San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas. Hot debris from two "flashes" in a three-week period fell onto parts of San Angelo. The debris was reported to have been similar in appearance to "crumpled up tin foil". (San Angelo Standard-Times, Sept. 22, 1982)

Late September 1982

Hutchinson Island, off Martin County, Florida. Two teenagers discovered a 7½-pound chunk of what was thought to possibly be a meteorite on the beach. The West Palm Beach Post (Sept. 24, 1982) reported:

Detective Bill Sprague said the black, tooth-shaped find could be a meteorite or a part of a rocket, burned by friction as it entered the earth's atmosphere. He said he wasn't certain if it was metal, but that if it was, it was curiously heavy. An attempt to determine if the rough, cinderlike coating would come off with a steel file failed. The tool barely scratched the object's surface.

Thursday, October 14, 1982

Dallam & Hartley Counties, Texas. An earthquake measuring 3.9 on the Richter scale hit the northwest part of the Texas Panhandle. The Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado, said it was only the second recorded earthquake for that area, the previous one striking March 11, 1948. It "felt like a sonic boom" or it "felt like a big train was coming through". (Dallas Times Herald, Oct. 15, 1982)

Monday, November 8, 1982

Wethersfield, Connecticut. An apparent meteor hit Wethersfield for the second time in eleven years. The softball-sized rock crashed into a living room as a family watched M*A*S*H. According to the Asso-

ciated Press, local police had received "numerous phone calls from residents who reported seeing 'bright lights and then heard an explosion' - phenomena associated with meteors rushing through the atmosphere". A Hartford astronomer cited "about six or eight features" that the black-crusted rock shared with meteorites. (Dallas Times Herald, Nov. 10, 1982)

Tuesday, November 16, 1982
Sussex County, southern Delaware. Five "booms" occurred in a 39-minute period between 8:00 and 9:00 AM. They were recorded by seismographs in the county seat of Georgetown. One or more of the booms were heard as far north as Millville in southern New Jersey, according to a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman in Millville. He knew of no air traffic that might have been responsible. (Ledger-Star; Norfolk, Virginia; November 17, 1982)

Monday, December 13, 1982
Arlington, Texas - between Dallas & Fort Worth. A 10-inch shard of "blue ice" crashed through trees and a roof and shattered on the floor inside a house. Officials were reported to be "baffled", although there was speculation that the ice was from an airliner's lavatory system. (Paris, TX News; 12-15-82)

Monday, December 20, 1982
Roswell, New Mexico. According to the Associated Press (December 22, 1982):

A football-shaped bright light in the night sky that prompted calls to the fire department might have been the contrail of a jet, authorities say. "It was kind of weird looking", said Garland Everett, a state police communications operator. "I imagine it was a jet. It looked like a jet's stream would look in the daytime. The jet's stream looked like an arc about the shape of a football. It was quite large", Everett said. "It's clear as a bell here and pretty cold. You could see lights ahead of the thing. It probably lasted about five minutes". There was no explosion, he said. The Federal Aviation Administration was contacted "and they didn't have anything at all", Everett said. The Roswell Fire Department received reports of an explosion Monday night, but city police and fire units sent to the area, six miles west of the city, could not find anything, a department official said.

And...

Monday, December 20 & Tuesday, December 21, 1982
Las Cruces, New Mexico (over 100 miles SW of Roswell) and Pecos, Texas (over 150 miles south of Roswell). The Albuquerque Journal of December 24, 1982 reported that...

The Dona Ana County (ed.note: Las Cruces area) sheriff's department was deluged with calls Monday and Tuesday nights from persons inquiring about strange lights in the sky. ...the calls came from as far away as Dona Ana, about nine miles north of the city, and Vado, about 16 miles south. Also, several officers and a dispatcher reported having seen the lights.

The dispatcher Thursday attributed the lights, which she said lit the entire horizon east of the southern Organ Mountains, to flares dropped from military helicopters for maneuvers on Dona Ana Range, an Army training area of Fort Bliss.

The massive Fort Bliss Military reservation lies east of Las Cruces, north of El Paso and south of Alamogordo. Adjoining Fort Bliss on the north is the even more massive White Sands Missile Range (and Holloman Air Force Base near Alamogordo) - hundreds of square miles of military playground.

However, the lights sighted from north of Las Cruces could not be explained by anything occurring on Dona Ana Range nearly 30 miles to the southeast. Checks with public affairs offices at both Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range shed some light on the lights. An Army spokesman at Fort Bliss confirmed that there were night training maneuvers at Dona Ana Range both nights, and said certain atmospheric conditions could cause visible phenomena from the light of aerial flares bounced off low clouds. And both nights there were training exercises at White Sands Space Harbor, where 4.8-billion can-

dispower lights turn the landing strip's night into day. But a White Sands spokesman said all lighting at the shuttle landing strip were stationary ground lights, except for two T-38 NASA jets used in landing simulations. And he said he doubted that the high-flying jets could be mistaken for UFOs.

But additional reports of strange lights in the sky from as far away as Roswell and Pecos, Texas, could not be attributed to either flares from Dona Ana Range or landing strip lights at White Sands. A spokesman for the Associated Press in Albuquerque said the Roswell reports had been traced to "something launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California".

But the Pecos sightings remain unexplained. May be it was the flares at Dona Ana Range enhanced by the glow from the landing lights at White Sands Space Harbor and bouncing off the thing launched from Vandenberg.

Sunday, December 26, 1982
Northern Ohio. Some residents of a 10-square-mile area covering southern Cuyahoga County, northern Medina County and eastern Lorain County were "terrified" by a "loud...low, long, violent explosion" at approximately 7:15 PM. Most who heard the mysterious boom believed it was only a couple of blocks from them. UPI reported:

"One guy called & said it felt like the walls of his house were coming in", Lorain County sheriff's communication officer Tom Kelley said. "We sent someone out for an hour and they checked, but couldn't find anything". Police and firefighters scoured the area for possible gas line explosions, plane crashes and dynamite blasts, but found nothing....The Cleveland Hopkins International Airport control tower said there was no indication from radar that a plane had caused a sonic boom. The Cleveland National Weather Service said there were no thunderstorms in the area Sunday night. Natural gas companies said they knew of no explosions in their lines. (Milwaukee Jour.; 12-28-82)

Thursday, December 30, 1982
Red River Parish, Louisiana. According to various accounts, residents saw a fiery ball hovering or crashing to the ground, or an apparent airplane was seen to crash, all over a wooded area northeast of the Parish (County) seat of Coushatta, Louisiana. The Times in nearby Natchitoches reported on Jan. 20, 1983 that...

One man said he saw a "circle of lights with a smaller circle of lights within the bigger circle. It was just hovering over the treetops and it sounded like a fan motor, nothing else, then all of a sudden, it left". And an altogether separate eyewitness reported seeing the same lights in about the same spot and described them the same way. "It was hovering over the tree tops, but it made no sound like a helicopter or an airplane, just a silent rushing sound, then it took off real fast and disappeared".

In the days following the reports, searchers combed the surrounding areas, and filed this report: "We went to the spot where (they) saw something. We went there and found fresh broken trees, sheared off the top(sic) and the green branches were laying on the ground. It looked like something had come through the trees, because it left a path through the tops of trees. But we didn't find anything there". The searchers also said there is a strange, unexplainable "acid-like" odor in a certain area.

Lately, however, the incident seems to have been solved - at least to some. Authorities now believe that a stunt pilot who was flying in the area at the time was what all the fuss was about.

But, the Times reported, the Coushatta newspaper, the Citizen, maintained that the mystery was yet to be solved:

"Just this week we've had several new reports: a couple reported that they had followed some kind of UFO for about a mile and a half", says Citizen staffer David Irvin. "and another man said he saw something on fire hovering, then the flames

went out, just like someone turned it off. Then the craft - it was oblong shaped - disappeared. I've been out there several times, and we have something out in those woods".

Thursday, December 30, 1982

Santa Monica, California. As a man watched the movie "Meteor" on television, he heard a crashing noise in his back yard. A chunk of ice "at least three feet and 200 pounds" had fallen through the roof of an unoccupied guest house, breaking a large wooden beam in the process. Ice that had accumulated on the wing of an airliner was offered as an explanation. (Albuquerque, New Mexico, Journal; December 31, 1982)

Mid-January 1983 (Reported in press Jan. 17th)
Macae, Brazil, 120 miles north of Rio de Janeiro. A "mysterious metallic cylinder" fell onto and damaged a house. A brief article in the London, England Times of January 17, 1983, stated...

The cylinder was incandescent when it struck the house of Senor Mauro Freitas Soares and started a small fire. No one was injured. Police described the object as about 2 ft. long and 4 in. in diameter. It had two small windows which showed numerous red wires inside. Local citizens were divided into those contending the object was a piece of the errant Cosmos 1402 and those convinced it fell from a flying saucer.

Saturday, January 15, 1983

Reading, England, 35 miles west of London. A "ball of fire" fell from the sky and started a fire in a field near Reading. According to the Western Daily Press of Bristol, England (January 17, 1983):

Mr Hedley Watkins, aged 62, saw the burning object from his flat in Lower Earley, Reading, Berks. "It was bright red and about a foot across. It fell out of the sky and into a field about 500 yards from here. Within seconds, the grass was alight", Mr. Watkins said. Mrs Pamela Quelch, who lives half-a-mile away in Falcon Avenue, also saw the "extremely bright, red object" fall to the ground. Her son David, 23, said: "What particularly concerns us is the way in which it set fire so easily to the wet grass".

In the U.S., the Associated Press (Sherman, Texas, Democrat; January 17, 1983) quoted a police spokesman who said "there was 'not believed to be any connection whatsoever' with a crippled Soviet satellite expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere". There were some charred remains. The periodical Foresight (Birmingham, England; July-September 1983) reported that:

Remains, a piece of metal wire with a small disc and some ashes, were taken to the Home Office forensic experts at Aldermaston for examination. It was however dismissed as not extraterrestrial.

That same month a farmer found hundreds of pieces of honeycombed metal foil strewn over an area the size of three football pitches. In a nearby copse branches had been sheared off trees. Police and RAF men were called and pieces were taken away but the riddle as to what they are remains. The RAF said they had no aircraft out at the time and it was not part of a weather balloon or a satellite.

Wednesday, January 19, 1983

Douglas County, Colorado; south of Denver. There were at least six good sightings of "large green objects falling from the sky" shortly after 6:00 PM. This came one week after the "Gallup Incident" in the Four Corners region on January 12th. Among the witnesses in Douglas County were a firefighter in Larkspur and a police officer in the county seat of Castle Rock. Denver's Rocky Mountain News reported on Thursday, January 20th that...

(Sheriff's dispatcher J.W.Roth) said the objects were reported falling two to four miles east of Interstate 25 at Silver Heights; in a field between Spruce Mountain and South Lake Gulch; at Lincoln Way and I-25; and five miles east of Colorado (highway) 83 on Hilltop Road. Roth said a preliminary investigation turned up no objects or damage in those areas. He said further investigations will begin at sunrise Thursday. "We have no idea what they were", Roth said. Del Kindschi, a spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defense

Command in Colorado Springs, said NORAD earlier had received a similar report from Kansas. But, he said, NORAD had received no reports from Douglas County.

The next day - Friday, January 21, 1983, the Rocky Mountain News published a follow-up:

No sign could be found Thursday of meteorites in Douglas County after a meteor shower turned the sky green Wednesday evening. In fact, the shower may have occurred far away and have only appeared to be in or near Douglas County, said Jack Murphy, curator of the geology department at the Denver Museum of Natural History. "We have concluded our preliminary investigation and determined that the meteor, which was traveling north to south, was over the eastern plains, perhaps even over Kansas..."

An independent investigator, known to CRUX, spoke with law enforcement personnel in Douglas County a day or two following the event. He was told that law enforcement agencies there were instructed by "the brass" that, if news media or others were to inquire, they were not to release any of the names of the witnesses who saw the green lights.

Friday, January 28, 1983

Near Clovis, Curry County, New Mexico. An Illinois couple, driving on U.S. highway 70 near Clovis saw a black object, which was at first believed to be a bird, swoop down out of the sky at a 45-degree angle. The object struck the top of the station wagon, leaving scratches and a greasy substance. The offender was described as about six inches wide, several feet long, and metallic in appearance. The couple, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Reed of Danville, Illinois, drove into Clovis to assess the damage and file a report with authorities. They had quickly stopped after being struck, but there was no immediate sign of the object in the open countryside. Personnel from nearby Cannon Air Force Base initiated a search for the object. Their intention was to determine if it could have part of an airplane stationed at the base. Nothing was reported to have been found as the search continued into the next day. Cannon reported that all F111D's at the base had been inspected and all were found intact.

Mr. Reed had noticed several jet aircraft overhead a few minutes prior to the descent of the object. Afterward, there were no cans, bottles, rubber or other debris found in the area, and there had been no other vehicles on that area of the highway. Over two years later, Mr. Reed told CRUX that he never heard nor found out what the object was - that the military had informed him by letter that they were unable to find the object. In retrospect, Mr. Reed believes that it may have been some type of drone or RPV (remotely-piloted vehicle). (Clovis, New Mexico News-Journal; January 28 and 30, 1983)

Friday, January 28, 1983

Eastern Tennessee, northern Georgia, western North Carolina. A bright white ball of light with a long, fiery tail was observed around 4:00 AM. Some witnesses reported "loud explosions" at the same time.

Speculation that the ball of fire was a meteorite flying at high altitude was refuted by at least one witness. Steve Gilliam, who witnessed the object with fellow employees at the Ashland Chemical Co. in East Knoxville (Tenn.), said the ball wasn't more than 400 feet above the ground. It made an "ungodly sound" as it passed over and Gilliam saw a red glow as the object disappeared over a hill. He described the ball as "bigger than a 747 (airplane) in diameter", with a 50-60 foot flame "stretching from it", and said there were three explosions as it passed over. Both the Knoxville Police and Knoxville Sheriff's Dept. received calls from citizens and officers who reported seeing the ball and hearing the explosions. Neither police nor deputies could find any evidence of the object. (APRO Bulletin; Vol. 31, No. 8, 1983 - Aerial Phenomena Research Organization; Tucson, AZ)

Saturday, January 29, 1983

Galveston, Texas. Over a dozen witnesses watched six green lights over Galveston Island's East Beach area. The lights appeared suddenly in the sky a-

round 7:00 PM, moved slowly over the area for about five minutes, then...

The lights then reportedly came to a stop and remained stationary for about 30 minutes before "zipping off just before the moon rose", one witness reported. Two other witnesses said the lights were arranged (sic) in a straight line and were first noticed moving along the shoreline at East Beach. The lights became stationary for 30 minutes and suddenly took off at a "very fast" speed over the Gulf. "I watched the lights for about 30 minutes before they disappeared", one man who called The News reported.

Chris Fredericksen and Deborah Stobie, who were on East Beach when the lights appeared, said that "whatever it was made no sound. And it was pretty low". They added that though the lights were arranged in a definite planar pattern, they did not seem to be connected. "I got right under the lights when they were stationary and you could see the stars between them, so they were not connected as far as we could see it", Fredericksen said. "I don't know what it was", they added, "but if it was some kind of trick or hoax, it was an effective one. I would like to meet the person that was able to do that!" Law enforcement officials said that they had received several calls on the strange lights, but that no reports from patrolling officers or the Coast Guard indicated that any officials had seen the objects. (Galveston, Texas, News; January 30, 1983)

Early February 1983

The Brooks Range and North Slope, northern Alaska. Although no date was cited, USA Today, in its edition of February 4, 1983, stated:

A brilliant flash of yellow light that made a 200-mile arc from Deadhorse to the Colville River probably was a meteorite, said Neal Brown of the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute in Fairbanks. The flash illuminated the entire Brooks Range of mountains in the North Slope area.

Thursday, February 10, 1983

New Orleans, Louisiana. As faculty members in the University of New Orleans' Fine Arts Center looked on, there was a "long flash" and an object "like a meteor" fell glowing red and smoking from the sky, striking the university campus between the Fine Arts Center and the campus security office shortly after 8:00 PM. The object burned with a low flame for 15-20 minutes, leaving an estimated 50 lbs. of charred remains with "protruding circuitry and parts". A National Aeronautics and Space Administration official, F. Edward Williams, and UNO geology professors examined the object and declared it to be an apparently man-made object that was doused with kerosene (the object, he said, had smelled of kerosene), placed on the campus lawn and ignited by a hoaxter or hoaxers. There was a foot-long skid mark next to the object and a 3/4-inch hole in the ground beneath it. Williams said the object - about the size of three basketballs - would have created a much larger crater if it had actually plummeted to the ground as reported.

One news report said that authorities had detected abnormal radiation from the burning remains. This was directly contradicted by another news item which stated that all tests for excessive radioactivity were negative. In another example of divergent reportage, one article contradicted Williams' statement by reporting that the campus security director (who maintained the object came from the sky, even if it had been dropped from an airplane) said the hole beneath the object was about 12 inches deep. (New Orleans Times-Picayune; Feb. 11, 1983; Noblesville, Indiana Daily Ledger; Feb. 11, 1983; Dallas Morning News; Feb. 12, 1983)

February 19, 1983 (Saturday)

Lake County, Ohio (northeast of Cleveland). On Dec. 26th (which see), residents of Medina, Lorain and Cuyahoga Counties (just to the southwest of Lake Co.) heard a long, low, violent - and unexplained - explosion. On this occasion, a loud boom rocked Lake County at about 11:15 PM Saturday night. The Federal Aviation Administration ruled out the possibility that a sonic boom was to blame:

"No such event occurred last night", said Arthur

Smith, FAA military liaison specialist in Oberlin. "There were no (supersonic) planes in the area at that time", said Kenneth Washington, FAA area manager at the airport. "Any plane flying that low, I would have known about it"..... Dale Paddock of the National Weather Service at Hopkins (Airport) said no atmospheric conditions Saturday could have caused the boom. (Cleveland Plain Dealer; February 21, 1983)

Sunday, February 20, 1983

Craighead County and Northeastern Arkansas. Residents reported a "ball of fire" which appeared to strike the ground near the Craighead-Jackson county line. Authorities feared an airplane may have crashed. A search, however, turned up no evidence on the ground. The object - or one like it - had been spotted from as far away as Little Rock, Arkansas and Springfield, Missouri. A physics professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Larry Coleman, told the press that...

(It) was probably a "bolide", a fist-sized meteorite that is often accompanied by a sonic boom...A bolide flashes with greater brightness than the usual shooting star, Larry Coleman explained... "A typical meteor is about the size of a grain of sand and it burns up quickly with a short flash of light", Coleman said. "The bolide can be fist-sized and can break up and flash all the way across the sky". The object sighted Sunday evening probably didn't hit the ground, a rare phenomenon which would require a larger than usual bolide, Coleman said. Although witnesses reported seeing the light go behind trees and then heard a boom they believed to have been caused by impact, Coleman said a bolide's landing would not cause any noticeable reverberation. (Arkansas Democrat; Little Rock, Arkansas; February 22, 1983)

Saturday, February 26, 1983

The Gulf of Mexico coast, southern Mississippi. At least three or four - and perhaps as many as seven - window-shattering, building-rattling explosions rocked the Mississippi Gulf Coast between about noon and 12:30 PM on Saturday, the 26th. The booms were heard as far east as Alabama and as far west as Bay St. Louis in southwestern Mississippi. Thousands of calls from concerned residents flooded police departments in Biloxi and Gulfport. The Biloxi-Gulfport Sun-Herald reported (2-27-83):

The Rev. Louis J. Eisele, an earthquake expert at Spring Hill College in Mobile (Alabama), registered booms at 12:11 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. on his nine seismograph machines. "The earth wiggled for about 10 seconds", he said. "It definitely was not something that came from underneath. It was pressure waves that came from something airborne over the Gulf", he said. A Louisiana Air National Guard spokesman who asked not to be named said four F-4 Phantom fighter planes broke the sound barrier around noon near the Chandeleur Islands, about 25 miles south of Gulfport. The planes flew across Gulfport at 9:30 a.m., but not at supersonic speeds, the spokesman said.

Brig. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, said he did not think National Guard planes caused the boom(sic). "I don't believe it would be one of ours", he said. "Yes, we do have planes that fly over the Gulf of Mexico and, at times, they break through the sound barrier. But I have no reports of any unusual activities involving the Louisiana Air National Guard". "Our planes have restrictions about breaking the sound barrier over built-up areas", Stroud said. His chief of staff would look into it today, he added.

The spokesman, contacted before Stroud, suggested the noise was caused by a weather disturbance or secret military aircraft flying at high altitudes. According to Eisele, the sonic boom could have originated from as far as one hundred miles away. Keesler Air Force Base's radar recorded four planes in the area at the time of the boom, according to Richard Paul, assistant director of the Harrison County Civil Defense. Paul said he was told the F-4's were flying in a 75 mile circle over the Gulf. Paul said he believes these planes caused the earth rumbling sounds. Eisele said the second

sound, recorded after a 20 minute later (sic), could not have been a delayed effect. If it was caused by the planes, he said, they would have had to broken (sic) the 760 mph sound barrier a second time. Eisele said other possible causes were meteors, explosions in the Gulf waters and, though highly unlikely, flying saucers.

Dr. Richard Leard, director of the Bureau of Marine Resources, said the last explosives set off in Mississippi waters were Thursday and Friday near the Louisiana border. "I have never seen anything like I felt today that was a result of seismographic work", said Leard, a Biloxi resident.

The National Weather Service in Jackson said the booms were not caused by weather disturbances. The National Space Technology Laboratories in Bay St. Louis, which sometimes rock the ground by testing rocket engines, did not cause the noise. "We didn't have anything going on out here", said Lt. Walter Black, security supervisor for the facility.

Earthquake experts from Louisiana, Colorado, Georgia, and Tennessee said no earthquakes were registered on their machines. "Our record shows nothing, absolutely nothing, not even a large blast", said Sue Nava of the Earthquake Information Center in Memphis. Dr. David Kieffer of Loyola University's physics department in New Orleans, said that Saturday was "a fairly noisy" day on the seismographs and "small stuff" such as a light tremor might have been lost in the data. Eisele said a similar boom shook Mobile earlier in the week but he did not know what caused it.

One man, who had lived in the area since 1929 said he had "never, ever, heard anything like this". He had been sitting by a window when it hit; the doors began shaking, windows began swaying and the ceiling began to crack. Other windows in the area were shattered, bottles were knocked from shelves and residents fled from their homes and gulfside condos.

For some people, however, the booms never happened. Johnny Rivers, the guard on duty at Keesler Air Force Base's Gate 2, near the beach, had the radio on and said he didn't hear or feel a thing.

The damage from the thunderous sound was mostly psychological, although some minor damage was reported. At Lawrence's clothing store in Biloxi's Vieux Marche, an already cracked window began shaking "like a rubber band", said Rosemary Delahousse, a store employee. The second boom smashed it.....

At the White Pillar Restaurant, nine bottles of German white wine smashed to the ground. Eight cubby holes away, bottles of Dom Perignon champagne worth \$100 each shook but stayed on the shelf. White Pillars owner John Mladinich estimated \$1500 in damage and lost wine. The ceiling cracked and damage estimates could go higher if structural damage to the turn-of-the-century building is discovered, he said.

Virginia Steelman, a nurse's assistant, was relaxing in her Ocean Springs home, reading the newspaper when she heard the sound. "I thought the wind was blowing my house down", she said. She called out to see if her neighbors were banging on the door. When she looked outside, the doorstop was empty. Carol Sawyer of Biloxi was eating at a Waffle House when the first boom sounded. "The guy who owned it tried to pass it off as the wind", Sawyer said, but the customers were not persuaded. The second boom came five minutes later and she left, only to hear booms three and four twenty minutes later. An hour after the noises stopped, Channel 4 in New Orleans ran its already scheduled movie: Earthquake, starring Charlton Heston and Ava Gardner.

Thursday, April 7, 1983
Weston and Campbell Counties, northeastern Wyoming - another episode somewhat reminiscent of the "Gallup Incident". A newspaper in the Weston county seat of Newcastle reported:

Deputies from Weston and Campbell County Sheriff's offices and a U.S. Air Force helicopter search crew from Ellsworth Air Base in Rapid City conducted a search last week for a possibly downed aircraft. Sheriff Don Howell said the search was ended Friday afternoon after deputies discovered a burned oil pit about 50 miles west of Newcastle in the area where the crash was believed to have occurred.

A search was started Thursday when an oil refinery worker in Newcastle reported hearing three "sonic boom-like" explosions and sighting a huge puff of smoke in the distance. The Air Force sent out the helicopter after numerous ranchers had reported they had seen a low-flying B-52 bomber on a test flight shortly before the explosions occurred. But Ellsworth officials said all of their planes were accounted for, as were those from other bases in the midwest.

Howell said the search had been originally called off on Thursday evening but resumed Friday when officials at the Air Force Rescue and Coordinating Center at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois reported their Tactical Air Command planes were not accounted for. The Center then called later Friday to say all planes were located. Howell said he thought it was a matter of a series of coincidences of sonic booms and smoke from the oil pit that created the situation. He said crews in three planes searched a 20 square mile area in the area. (USA Today; April 14, 1983 - News Letter Journal; Newcastle, Wyoming; April 14, 1983)

Monday, December 5, 1983

Oswego County, New York - on Lake Ontario, north of Syracuse. On October 6, 1983, central New York and a large area in surrounding states and provinces had been shaken by an earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale. The event on Dec. 5th brought the October quake to mind, but there were differences. The December tremor was not detected on area seismological equipment. The "rumble" came between 7:00 and 8:00 PM. It "wasn't like the last tremor", said the Oswego County fire coordinator, Homer Bowman. Bowman told the press:

(It)was more like one concussion...a bump. There were no tremors after that, just one thud.

Bowman remarked that it sounded as though someone had hit the side of his house with a boxing glove. Griffiss Air Force Base at nearby Rome, New York, said they were not aware of any military flights that could have caused a sonic boom at that time. (Herald-Journal; Syracuse, NY; December 6, 1983)

Thursday, December 8, 1983

Onondaga County, New York - the county in which Syracuse is located, it lies just south of Oswego County. Two "thunderous claps of sound" were reported around 6:55 PM. More than a hundred calls from concerned citizens were directed toward area newspapers and law enforcement agencies. One woman thought it was "the beginning of the end, a nuclear bomb exploding". A police officer suspected an electrical transformer had blown up. Nearby Griffiss Air Force Base offered sonic booms as an explanation, saying that jet aircraft had been flying over Syracuse around that time. (Post-Standard; Syracuse, New York; December 13, 1983)

Thursday, December 22, 1983

Arkansas (several areas) - the beginning of Arkansas's siege of "baffling booms", which would cover a broad area of the state and would extend into early 1984. Between 5:00 and 6:00 AM on Dec. 22, a "big bang" was felt/heard in north-central Arkansas, from Independence County in the east to Yell County in the west. Many percipients described the event as sounding like something heavy falling onto the roof of a house. This would be followed by an unspecified number of additional sporadic booms over the next couple of days. Some were heard in/over areas as widely separated as Little Rock, Hope, Mena and De Queen. On Christmas Eve, the Arkansas Gazette reported:

The noises, which have been described as sounding like an explosion, a sonic boom, a book falling off a shelf and a hand pounding on a wooden door, apparently have been occurring since the beginning of the recent cold weather. Inquiries have produced a number of theories and guesses but no plausible explanations. George Wilken, a National Weather Service forecaster at North Little Rock, said he heard one of the booms himself and has had several reports of booms at the Weather Service but said he could think of no meteorological explanation. "It sounded like a book falling off a shelf and landing flat on the floor",

he said. "I can't think of any phenomenon connected with the cold weather that would cause it. It's not thunder because we haven't had any on the radar and the type of clouds we've had don't produce thunder."

Capt. Peter Kirk, the base information officer at Little Rock Air Force Base, said he had called Air Force and Navy command centers and the Federal Aviation Administration and said they had no reports of military air traffic over the state that could have caused sonic booms. Dale Blaylock of the state Office of Emergency Services said he thought the noises might be the sounds of exploding electrical transformers. Wilken said the only explanations he could think of were that the booms had been caused by trees breaking under the weight of snow and ice, concrete or wooden walls popping from exposure to low temperatures or sonic booms. Cold air, he said, allows sound to carry long distances. "Those are the only things I can think of", he said, "but I wouldn't bet my life savings on it."

Wednesday, December 28, 1983

Northwestern Arkansas. The mystery lowered the boom(s) on the Fayetteville-Springdale area at around 10:00 PM. The Springdale police department was swamped with calls from curious and concerned citizens. As the Springdale, Arkansas News reported on 12-29-83:

Some of the callers thought somebody was attempting to break into their homes. One thought snowballs struck her house. Another said something bumped a wall. One caller thought there was a prowler but police found no footprints in the snow. Fayetteville police reported similar calls, many coming from the northeast part of the city. One person said it sounded as if a car had bumped his house. Others thought there had been an explosion. Reports continued briskly for a while and then ceased. Officers in both cities searched for the source without result. A Springdale policeman said the dispatcher at the Washington County Sheriff's Department suggested that blasting at the limestone quarry at Johnson may have been responsible but the theory was later discarded...The only part of the mystery that almost everybody agrees with is that the booms have only occurred when the weather was extremely cold.

Another unexplained explosion-like noise rocked Fort Smith, Arkansas during that same week. The National Weather Service there speculated that an atmospheric inversion may have amplified the sound of ice cracking on the Arkansas River. It was reported that no planes were flying over Fort Smith around the time of the boom. The following week, the Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock, Jan. 4, 1984) produced additional speculation on the cause of the sounds:

Reports of the loud noises peaked during the recent cold spell, and representatives from military and civil aviation agencies and the National Weather Service ruled out sonic booms and thunder as explanations for the phenomenon. Although the origin of the loud noises remains unknown, the cold weather's effect on roofs and house frames seems to be the most likely explanation. "I've been sitting in my den listening to the noises for a couple of weeks", Orville Wise, a geologist with the state Geological Commission said Tuesday. "They seem to happen after dark when the temperature drops. It may be due to the contraction of the wood in the house. In some cases, it might have been something where one board is pulled loose from another and caused a popping sound". Wise said that he could think of no geological explanation for the sounds. "I think these are temporary things due to the extreme weather conditions", he said, "and they'll go away as the warmer weather returns." Ken Ziegenbein, a National Weather Service forecaster, said the Weather Service has not received any calls on the booms for a week or more. "We really don't know the answer", he said. "Apparently it was just roofs popping from the cold and sound carries a lot farther in very cold weather. It's a mystery, but apparently it had something to do with the cold weather".

Wednesday, January 4, 1984

McAlester, Oklahoma. Southeastern Oklahoma was not to be spared, as an explosion-like noise rolled across the McAlester area at approximately 9:15 AM. An Army ammunition plant is located near McAlester, and area residents thought the plant had detonated

a sizeable amount of ammo. However, a plant spokesman reported that no blasting had occurred at the plant that day. As in Arkansas, it was speculated that the sound of ice cracking in nearby waterways, such as Lake Eufaula, may have somehow been magnified. In a report from its McAlester bureau, the Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, January 5, 1984) reported:

Phil Bothwell, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Oklahoma City said McAlester was the victim of a "substantial inversion" at around 9 a.m., and that may have led to the thundering boom. According to Bothwell, the inversion - a layer of warm air over cold air - has a tendency to trap sound waves, magnify them and channel them to a location. He said the sound of cracking ice may have been what McAlester heard. Bothwell also said shifting ice would cause a rumbling sound, similar to one residents here heard for five minutes after the initial boom. Clyde Pigg, with the Corps of Engineers at nearby Lake Eufaula, said much of the lake is frozen, although it is beginning to thaw and crack in spots. He also said that ice along the Canadian River is beginning to thaw. But Pigg, whose office is about 30 miles from here, said he didn't hear a boom.

Others thought the noise may have been a sonic boom caused by military aircraft that occasionally fly over McAlester. One man reported seeing a high-flying F-15 fighter streaking over the city at about the time of the boom. "If it was a sonic boom, it was the loudest I've heard", he said.

Mayor Steve Taylor said he heard the noise at his law office, "and it just about knocked my socks off". James Ramsey, a supervisor with the Federal Aviation Administration office here, said the noise could have been a sonic boom, but he couldn't explain the rumbling noise afterward.

Sunday, February 26, 1984

Vancouver, British Columbia. A big boom bounced the Vancouver area around 9:00 PM. It prompted numerous calls to police stations, and a police officer termed it "a lovely little mystery". According to the Vancouver Sun (Feb. 27, 1984), the officer went on to report that...

"We checked the military about a possible sonic boom and B.C. Hydro in case a gas explosion occurred. We even phoned Washington state to check if Mount St. Helens had erupted again", the officer said. An RCMP officer in Richmond said he had no idea what caused the noise. "We checked and couldn't come up with an answer". Burnaby RCMP's investigation of the noise calls produced the same result. "We couldn't pin down anything", an officer said.

It was noted (however irrelevantly) that, two weeks later, on Sunday, March 11, 1984, a flaming object was seen falling to the ground in Duncan, British Columbia, on Vancouver Island, across the Strait of Georgia from the city of Vancouver. Teenager David Thompson saw it fall onto a yellow line in the middle of a city street. It flamed for about three seconds and went out, leaving a sizzling mass on the wet pavement. It was described as hard, yellow, about one-half-inch thick, almost circular, and concave. Thompson scooped up some of the debris and ended up leaving it outside at home. The next morning, he found the substance was soft and beginning to melt. Three science teachers examined the substance without identifying it. The intention was to have the stuff analyzed in Ottawa and at a nearby university. We are not aware of the outcome of the analysis. Perhaps a reader can fill us in and we'll pass it on. (Cowichan Leader; Duncan, B.C.; March 15, 1984)

Sunday, May 20, 1984

Pierce County, western Wisconsin. As a family watched, an "icy blue glob" plummeted to the ground "with a whistle and a bang". Ron LaGran's family was gathered for a photograph at the time. He took a sample of the blue ice and gave some to the sheriff's department. A friend suggested that the ice might have been discharged from an airplane. LaGran commented:

"We didn't hear a plane, but it could have been

a jet 25,000 to 30,000 feet up. Whatever it was, it came down fast and made an indentation in the ground. If it had hit somebody, it would have killed them"..." (Pierce County Herald; Ellsworth, WI; May 23, 1984)

Wednesday, July 4, 1984

Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas. Did someone or something get a bit carried away on Independence Day? Between 3:30 and 4:00 AM on the morning of the Fourth of July, a fireball, brilliant flash and an explosion were variously reported from Jonesboro and Searcy, Arkansas on the north to College Station, Texas on the south, with reports from such points in between as Little Rock, Texarkana and Bossier City, Louisiana. The sky, at least in places, was lit up "blue or turquoise" followed by a brilliant orange explosion that some people saw "even with their backs to the phenomenon". One of the initial news reports was published in the Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock) of July 6, 1984. Reported were the descriptions of members of the fire department in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, who had responded to a fire call at 3:30 AM. At about 3:45, an apparent "rocket" streaked across the sky.

"The sky lit up like a flash of lightning but it lasted longer than lightning usually does", Charles McAnally said. "We thought it was maybe a big bunch of fireworks. Everybody said 'what the hell was that?'!", he said. "It looked like a rocket at first but it had a fireball-like deal in front and the light flared out behind it. It lit up the sky as it went by us and disappeared behind some trees". Another fireman, Jerry Sullivan, said the object came out of the southeast and moved quickly into the northeast. "We had one heck of a flash of light and a deafening boom down here", Don Harrison, a dispatcher at Arkansas State Police Troop K in Hot Springs, said. Dr. Derek W. Sears, an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and an expert on meteors, said, however, that he is "80 or 90 percent sure" the object was not part of the Taurid meteor shower, which is usually visible this time of year.

An update was published across town in the Arkansas Democrat (Little Rock) on July 20, 1984. The occurrence apparently made such an impression that it was still newsworthy at that late date. Interviewed was Keith Johnson, assistant director of the planetarium at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Johnson said the phenomenon was sighted "pretty much overhead" moving toward the east; according to some reports, it was headed northeast. He added that "a couple of people who were farther off the track saw it in lower parts of the sky". "So far, they haven't been able to find any of the meteorite if it landed on Earth", Johnson noted, adding that UALR has been in contact with the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., on the matter. "We do not actually know how big or how high it was", he said, but one person who claims it was a spaceship, does. "At about 5,000 feet was this spacecraft", a man wrote in a letter to the Democrat on July 13. "It sounds like he did see whatever it was", remarked Johnson, with a degree of skepticism. Only one person heard a noise associated with the object: "a rumbling, then kind of an explosion", Johnson said. He added that he tended to be wary of this report because the "explosion" followed the "rumbling" noise by three or four minutes. That would be, Johnson said, a very strange phenomenon, indeed.

Sunday, November 4, 1984

Southern Texas, from San Antonio to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. A flashing explosion/sonic boom/shower of light was reported shortly after 8:00 PM that Sunday night - from San Antonio all the way south to Raymondville, with most reports coming from the lower valley in the Edinburg-Mission-McAllen area. Initial reports blamed "fireworks", as in the Valley Morning Star (Harlingen, TX), 11-5-84:

City fire officials said a skylighting explosion Sunday night reported by some as a meteorite crash was probably only a big fireworks display. The flashing explosion was reported by a number of residents in Mission, McAllen and Edinburg at approximately 8:00 PM. Police in mid-Valley cities said switchboards were jammed by persons calling to ask what happened. The flash and explosion

seemed to be centered in a rural area north of Edinburg, according to callers who said it may have been an explosion of some propane tank or building. However, the Edinburg fire officials said while some callers described it as a meteorite crash, the only explanation they had Sunday night was a report of some men setting off a fireworks display north of the city.

The next day, the Assoc. Press said that astronomy professor Sam Giucco of Pan American University in Edinburg said witnesses reported a sonic-type boom plus feeling an "earthquake-like tremor". The McAllen, Texas, Monitor reported on November 6, 1984 that a county investigator about 30 miles west of McAllen thought the "object" hit the ground 4 or 5 miles east of his location. Also, the northern-most sighting was reported to be Austin, not San Antonio. Monitor reporter Barbara King wrote:

It came across the sky from east to west and was seen as far north as Austin, the National Weather Service reported Monday. Dr. Ed LeMaster, a physical sciences professor at (Edinburg's Pan American) university, said he interviewed several students who witnessed the object and concluded one or more fragments from a meteor shower may have come down in the McAllen-Mission area.

Both LeMaster and a weather service spokesman at Brownsville said it would be extremely rare to find a meteorite on the ground, because most of the material burns up on entering the atmosphere. "It's estimated that thousands of tons of meteoric material are striking the earth unnoticed every day and most of it burns up", LeMaster said. He said there were two possible explanations for people reporting a "shock wave" that rattled windows shortly before a booming sound was heard during the 10 to 15 second episode. "One is that the concussion of the sonic boom caused a seismic wave on the surface of the earth, rattling windows, and second, maybe someplace one of the fragments struck, but it would be like looking for a needle-in-the-haystack", he said.

An account of the meteor by an Edinburg resident suggests the "seismic shock wave" theory. Louis DeVries of Edinburg was standing by his barn. "It's a tin barn and when the wind blows, it rattles", he said. There was no wind night before last, but "all of a sudden it started rattling all over", he said. Almost immediately he heard a main explosion, which was followed by several minor ones, he said. "You know how fireworks will give you a big bang and then there will be a lot of little ones afterward. That's how it was immediately after the rattling. Not more than one or two seconds later". DeVries didn't see any flashes, though. His barn is located on Jackson Road about two and a half miles south of Highway 107.

Dr. LeMaster said shock waves on the surface of the earth travel faster than sound in the air. "If the meteor hit the ground, the shock wave would have reached here before the sound, so that fits". The university professor said that, according to students' reports, the meteor was a "dazzling display of red, green and blue and toward the end of its flight, white". LeMaster said Ahron Ethridge of McAllen, president of the Valley Astronomical Society, has been collecting eye-witness reports. He also said he heard that a San Antonio museum had sent down helicopters to search for fragments. "The consensus is that there were many fragments and they fell in the area of McAllen", he said. "That's about as definite as anything at this point".

Some 30 miles west of the McAllen-Mission area, Starr County investigator Joel Pena said he spied the object, and it appeared to strike the ground 4 to 5 miles east of him. "What I saw was like a flare. I think it was a lightning-type thing, like a falling star, like fireworks, and it disappeared", Pena said. "I didn't hear any explosion, but I had my radio on". At about the same time, a woman from the La Victoria area telephoned the Starr County sheriff's dispatcher and said she heard "an explosion".

Fall 1984

Las Vegas, Nevada. The Las Vegas Review-Journal of February 24, 1985, reported that "Las Vegans frequently feel unexplained tremors or see unidentified flying objects". The newspaper reported the accounts of three "responsible" businessmen on unspecified dates in the fall of 1984.

On a mild fall afternoon, Martin Rice watched incredulously as the basketballs bounced slightly on a department store shelf. Several small items fell as the apparent tremor increased in intensity. Rice wondered if there had been an unreported earthquake in the Las Vegas area. On many evenings last fall, Richard Arnold spied a series of four or five orange lights hanging in the sky as he drove home along the Pahrump Highway. "They were visible for 10 or 15 minutes. I bought binoculars so I could see them better. I have no idea what they are". On warm fall evenings, Sal Cinquegrani liked to walk out in his backyard in Spring Valley to gaze at the strange lights in the sky. "There were flashes of laser beams across the sky. They lasted for several seconds and then came back. I thought it was a fascinating thing".

There was much speculation that the tremors were being caused by unannounced nuclear tests at the vast Nellis Air Force Range and Nuclear Testing Site north of Las Vegas - or that the rumblings were due to sonic booms or "some secret military aircraft maneuver". Officials at Nellis Air Force Base and the Nevada Test Site claimed that they were not responsible. Seismologically, no earthquakes had been detected. According to the Review-Journal, University of Nevada at Las Vegas geologist Bill Fiero...

...has felt tremors that were not detectable from earthly origins. "If it doesn't show up on the seismograph, then it is not coming out of the ground", Fiero said. "I can't explain it." Fiero, however, speculates some of the rattling of windows and mild tremors felt by southern Nevadans may be caused by sonic booms from aircraft flying considerable distances away. "I have been told that under certain atmospheric conditions, there are patterns that skip across the sky and magnify sonic booms."

A similar view is advanced by test site spokesman Jim Boyer. He said sonic booms may bounce from cloud to cloud for 200 miles to 300 miles across the sky under certain conditions. Rather than a test site detonation, small tremors may be caused by the far-away booms, Boyer said. Nonetheless, chances of Nellis aircraft causing booms that would be felt in Las Vegas are "rare", said Col. John Kuminecz, the base's chief spokesman. Kuminecz said Nellis' sonic speed flying range is about 100 miles north of Las Vegas in the Delamar Valley area. "There might be some window rattling in Vegas on an infrequent basis", he said.

Regarding the contention that the tremors might be caused by unannounced nuclear testing (underground) at the Nevada Test Site, the Review-Journal concluded its article of Feb. 24, 1985 thusly:

Since 1951, more than 630 nuclear weapons have been detonated on the test site. It is Energy Department policy to announce any test that may cause ground motion that can be felt in Las Vegas. The unannounced tests presumably are those too small in magnitude to be detectable. Still, some people wonder if these unannounced tests are the cause of tremors. "I can say categorically that we preannounce or postannounce all tests that can be felt in Las Vegas", Boyer said. Since 1977, seismologists at the California Institute of Technology have detected 138 underground nuclear tests. During the same period, test site officials have announced 120 tests.

Sunday, March 24, 1985

The southeastern United States - from Florida to South Carolina to Tennessee to Alabama. Witnessed was a huge fireball coming "straight down rather than at an angle", a multi-colored streak of light, possibly accompanied by a "loud noise". The action occurred shortly before 8:00 PM Eastern Time (or shortly before 7:00 PM Central Time). On Monday, March 25, 1985, the Anniston, Alabama, Star reported:

ted:

...As of this morning, there had been no official explanation for the streak of "brilliant" light, which pilots over Alabama said "changed from red to green to orange" as it raced across the sky Sunday night. The flash, which was sighted as far south as Orlando, Fla., as far north as Tennessee and as far east as Charleston, S.C., is believed to have been a meteorite, according to Jim Moates, area supervisor for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Birmingham. W.C. Wilson of the Alabama Forestry Commission said he had received some 100 calls asking about the flash by about 8:30 p.m. Sunday. He said he was also keeping track of calls from people who said they'd heard a noise related to the flash. Those calls seemed to come from an area around south Calhoun, Clay, Randolph and Chambers counties, Wilson said.

Jacksonville State Troopers received many calls about the flash, and the sheriff's office in Randolph County said Sunday night that they'd had reports of a loud noise that may have accompanied the fireball. Several callers wondered if a missile had been exploded over the state. But Capt. Barbara Carr, at Maxwell Air Force Base near Montgomery, said Sunday night that no missiles had been exploded.

Observers reported seeing "flames coming out from around" the object as it streaked through the night, said John Whiteside, a FAA duty officer in Atlanta. "Even experienced people are totally amazed at the size and the fact that it came straight down rather than at an angle".

The next day - Tuesday, March 26, 1985 - an Associated Press dispatch reported further on the event. Mentioned was the fact that people as far away as southern Illinois saw lights that night that may have been associated with the event. Elaborating on accounts from the SF U.S.:

"It appeared to be a ball of fire and seemed much brighter and bigger than a shooting star", said Tennessee highway patrolman Harold Munger, who said he was about 10 miles east of Chattanooga when he saw it around 8 p.m. "It had fire streaming from behind it. My concern at first was that it might have been an aircraft in trouble", Munger said. "It hit the horizon and went behind a mountain in front of me. I didn't see an explosion or anything. It just disappeared".

"Three pilots reported seeing a streak of light that changed from red to green to orange", said Ken King, the FAA supervisor at the Huntsville, Ala. airport. He said such color changes are typical of meteors.

The Scientific Event Alert Network at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History said Monday it was collecting reports on the fireball and trying to determine if it struck the ground. The center was assuming the phenomenon was a meteor and wants to determine if any remains can be located, said Elizabeth Nielsen of the center. There were no immediate reports of any meteor debris being found. Ms. Nielsen said the North American Air Defense Command, which tracks objects in space near the earth, ruled out a satellite re-entry as the cause of the phenomenon. "We did have a window for meteor showers for around the 20th of March, and this could have been part of that", said Cmdr. William Ranzinger, a duty officer at NORAD's Cheyenne Mountain complex in Colorado.

Howard Bookman, a meteorologist at the FAA air traffic control center in Hampton, Ga., said that, based on pilots' reports, the object probably entered the atmosphere about 50 miles northeast of Atlanta. Birmingham, Ala., newsman Ley Garnett said the light "broke into several pieces...almost like fireworks". Joe Gatewood, 32, of Cottonton, Ala., said the light "was big and it changed colors rapidly. It was going from green to red to green to red, and then it was gone. It was only there for three or four seconds".

Monday, March 25, 1985

Anniston and Calhoun County, Alabama. Following the "fireball" event of the previous evening, Sunday, the 24th, the Anniston area was shaken by a "house-jarring boom" around 7:30 the next morning. However, there was no direct evidence linking the two events. Anniston lies in an area of heavy military influence, with Fort McClellan just east of town and the Anniston Army Depot to the west. Reporting on the explosion-like noise, the Anniston Star passed along the following on March 25, 1985:

The loud boom in Anniston occurred at about 7:30 a.m. this morning. A 24-year-old man said his house on Christine Avenue shook while he was making tea. Another Anniston resident said he was traveling east on 10th Street, near the offices of The Anniston Star, when the noise was heard. He said the boom reverberated so violently that he thought his car had been hit by another vehicle. Yet officials at the Anniston police and fire departments, as well as the Calhoun County Civil Defense office, said they didn't hear the boom and had received no calls concerning the matter.

The public affairs office at Fort McClellan and the Anniston Army Depot said they had no explanation for the noise and that no artillery drills were scheduled for this morning. The blast may have been a sonic boom, which is generated by an airplane flying overhead at or above the speed of sound, but this could not be immediately determined this morning.

Friday, March 29, 1985

Central Arkansas. In the early afternoon, a "loud boom" resounded through an area bounded approximately by Conway, Little Rock and Beebe. The Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock; March 30, 1985) reported on the event as follows:

The Office of Emergency Services said the noise, which occurred about 1:15 p.m., seemed to originate near north Conway, Toad Suck and Gold Creek. Conway police said a booming noise, like an explosion, was heard Thursday and two or three times Friday, but they did not know what caused it. A National Weather Service spokesman said he did not know of any natural phenomena that would have caused the noise, but said he had heard it and suggested it might have come from artillery drills at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. The Camp Robinson police said there were no artillery drills or gunfire going on at the camp.

The Little Rock Airport and the Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville said there had been no flights that would have caused a sonic boom. Spokesmen for the Granite Mountain Quarries and 3M, both in Little Rock, said they had not dynamited Thursday and did not know what caused the noise. The State Police also had no clues.

We emphasize that we cannot point to any direct or unassailable relationship between "The Gallup Incident" and the admittedly non-exhaustive review of the other incidents described above. Many of these events may very well have natural or prosaic explanations (if more details about each case were known - which in most cases shall remain an extremely unlikely development). On the other hand, the possibility of some as-yet unfathomed correlations cannot be discounted. As far as "The Gallup Incident" itself is concerned, we remain optimistic that more definitive reportage can eventually be provided.

Perhaps in spewing forth these accounts of fireballs, streaking lights, blasts, booms and rumbles, it's just our way of saying: Hey - happy Fourth of July!

"When the going gets tough, the weird turn pro."
- Hunter S. Thompson

THE FUTURE LIES AHEAD

In 1974 a book titled The Age of Cataclysm was published (Berkley/G.P.Putnam). The authors were Alfred L. Webre and Phillip H. Liss. It argued for prophesied cataclysmic change before the end of the century across the entire spectrum of human terrestrial experience - from geophysics to politics. Webre graduated from Yale Law School and had taught economics there. He was a Fulbright scholar, a published poet and served as general counsel of New York City's Environmental Protection Administration. Liss was described as an experimental psychologist with a PhD from McGill University in Canada. He had conducted research at Warsaw, MIT and Harvard and had taught psychology at Rutgers and the City College of New York.

An article based on an interview with Webre and Liss appeared in New York City's Village Voice newspaper on March 29, 1976. They were in the business as a consulting firm of making predictions 10 to 25 years into the future. They claimed such clients as the Ford Foundation, the New York State Senate and the Congressional Research Service. A portion of the Village Voice article follows:

They believe a cataclysmic future threatens us, including climatic and geological shifts, famine, political upheavals, major earthquakes in unforeseen places and the risk of nuclear holocaust. This is pretty obvious stuff. What isn't so obvious is how Webre and Liss feel we're going to avoid it.

"Our perspective", they told me, "is that many truths that will be accepted as commonplace a generation from now appear from today's conventional perspective to be psychotic and irrational. We argue that human society and the present world political order are entering a period of radical transformation, the outcome of which will be an economically and politically integrated, largely capitalist global society. We've spent nearly three years interviewing nuclear physicists, seismologists, ecologists, statisticians, and a host of other experts - besides reviewing professional journals and an enormous amount of literature - and we feel we've made a scientific discovery in the classical, technical sense. We believe that higher intelligent beings are signaling a peaceful political transformation of man. Our contention is that UFOs, Virgin Mary Miracles, and the 1908 nuclear explosion in Tungus, Siberia, among others, have been deliberately designed by these beings as encoded messages. These messages, once decoded, provide a basis for an optimistic view of the future. We are constructing a data-based theory of the existence and game plan of these higher intelligent beings".

After that mind-boggling opinion, they discussed some of the details of these messages, everything from turn-of-the-century saints to the Third Reich and the JFK assassination.

I found it hard to believe that busy executives would be willing to pay for such freaky advice - far less sit still long enough to hear a presentation on these subjects. "Well, we were a little nervous at first", said Webre, "but so far no one's called us crazy yet. We've been amazed at how many businessmen we've encountered who have been receptive to our ideas!"

...they have been giving lectures, writing books like "The Age of Cataclysm" and "The Messiah Riddle", and giving out corporate advice from their own office at 130 Greene Street, New York City 10012. They plan to keep busy, because they feel that the harmonious global transformation that awaits us - by the end of the century - will occur under the aegis of a global hero who will likely provide both the scientific and social vision, and leadership, and will fulfill the functions ascribed in Judeo-Christian symbology to the triumphant Messiah of the Old and New Testaments, and in Marxist symbology to the world proletarian revolution. The hero, we believe, will not be a single human being. It will be a business firm, operating in the competitive marketplace. And, who knows, it might be a company like ours".

As far as we can determine, The Messiah Riddle has never been published. We have been informed that it is mentioned in a footnote on page 83 of the Berkley Medallion paperback edition of The Age of Cataclysm. We possess the Berkley/Putnam hardback edition, and we can find no mention of The Messiah Riddle therein. If any readers have contact with Webre and/or Liss, we would be interested in knowing whatever became of The Messiah Riddle.

Dr. Dee's Close Encounter

In 1586

by George Andrews

Dr. John Dee was officially the astrologer of Queen Elizabeth I, and unofficially her secret agent, signing his reports 007. He was also a brilliant mathematician, and was among those responsible for founding the original Rosy Cross. On April 30, 1586, he was in Prague, accompanied by Edward Kelly, and recorded the following events in his notebook under the title:

Miraculum, et factum memorandum in perpetuum

As E.K. stood at the end of the Galery by his Chamber, looking over into the Vineyard he seemed to see the little man the Gardiner, in all manner of behaviour and apparel, who is the chief workman or over-seer of Mr. Carpio his workmen in the same vine-yard. He seemed very handsomely to prune some of the Trees: At length he approached under the wall by E.K. and holding his face away-ward he said unto him, Quaso dicas Domino Doctori quod veniat ad me. And so went away as it were cutting here and there the Trees very handsomely, and at length over the Cherry-trees by the house on the Rock in the Garden he seemed to mount up in a great pillar of fire.

E.K. bade his Wife to go, and see who was in the Garden. She came up, and brought him word, nobody.

E.K. then came to me and said, I think there is some wicked spirit that would allude me, and he told and said to me, as is before noted. Then said I, I will go into the Garden, and bade E.K. come with me. We went down that way which this Creature did go; but nothing we saw, went to the Banqueting-house in the Vine-yard, but that place pleased us not: so, we went along in the way by the cliffside, and sat down on the bank by the great pyle of Vine-stakes lying the very South end of the Vine-yard. I espied (I say) like a sheet of faire white paper lying tossed to and fro in the wind. I rose and went to it, and (to the praise of God his truth and power) there I found three of my Books lying, which were so diligently burnt the tenth day of April last.

1 The three books were, Enoch his Book

2 The 48 Claves Angelica.

3 And the third was the Book of my gathering of the thirty Aires, and entitled Liber Scientia terrenstris auxili et victoriae.

Thereupon E.K. coming to me, I fell on my knees with great thanks yeilding to the God Almighty, and so did E.K. whose mind and body were maravilously affected at the sight of the said Books, having no shew or signe that ever they had been in the fire, neither by colour or favour, or any thing wanting.

And after we had set half an hour under the fore-said Almond-trees, prayasing God and wondring at the Miracle. Suddenly appeared by us the self-same Gardiner like person, but with his face somewhat turned away, and nothing thereof to be adjudged as of Ave the custome is. He said, Kelly, follow me. E.K. went, and I sat still, awaiting his return.

This Gardiner went before E.K. and his feet seemed not to touch the ground by a foot height. And as he went before E.K. so the doores did seeme to open before him, he led him up the great stairs on the left hand by the Vineyard door, and so in at his own Chamber door where E.K. hath his new study, and then the door going out of that to the stairs opened of itself, and he went up those stairs, and at length brought him to the Furnace mouth where all the Books and papers had been burnt the 10 day of this April. And com-

ing thither, there the spiritual Creature did seem to set one of his feet on the post on the right hand without the Furnace mouth, and with the other to step to the Furnace mouth, and to reach into the Furnace (the bricks now having been plucked away which stopped the mouth of the Furnace, all saving one brick thick) and as he reached into the Furnace there appeared a great light, as if there had been a window in the back of the Furnace, and also to E.K. the hole which was not greater than the thickness of a brick unstopped, did seeme now more than three or four brick thickness wide, and so over his shoulder backward he did reach to E.K. all the rest of the standing Books, excepting the Book out of which the last Action was cut, and Fr. Pucci his Recantation, also to E.K. appeared in the Furnace all the rest of the papers which were not as then delivered out.

That being done, he bade E.K. go, and said he should have the rest afterward. He went before in a little fiery cloud, and E.K. followed with the Books under his arm all along the Gallery, and came down the stairs by Fr. Pucci his Chamber door, and then his guide left E.K. and he brought me the Books unto my place under the Almond-tree.

It is of course quite obvious that the little man with averted face, whose feet "seemed not to touch the ground", who moved in "a little fiery cloud", doors opening of themselves before him, and who mounted up into the sky in "a great pillar of fire" also turns up persistently in modern UFO reports.

My source for the above material is "A True and Faithful Relation of what passed for many Years Between Dr. John Dee and Some Spirits" by Meric Casaubon, which was published in London in 1659.

"...if one considers 'artificial' to be that which is shaped by an active Intelligence, then the entire Universe that surrounds us is already artificial."

- Stanislaw Lem

Propulsion Proposal

by Ed Austin

A lot has been said about UFO propulsion. Ideas run the gamut from telekinesis to using a planetary magnetic field. Buried amongst all this stuff is one idea worth more exploration - backed by hard documentation - and easily provable in the experimenter's own home or at the laundromat.

Ever have your socks and plastic clothes stick together in the dryer? Ever pull a block of plastic foam packing apart and watch it fly back together? Especially the crumbs? This is the result of electrostatic voltages. But hold on - there is more!

Some time in the early 1900's, a college student named Thomas Townsend Brown noticed that an X-ray tube moved when voltage was applied. This led to a study of the effects of high voltages on electrodes of various shapes. Out of that came Patent number 2,949,550, titled "electrostatic apparatus".

Several years ago, Saga Magazine located Brown at Stanford University near San Francisco, working on a secret Navy project. Over the years in between, I have seen several pictures in the mechanics mags of electrostatically suspended experimental vehicles, usually in laboratory context. There is a common loudspeaker available in most stereo stores which uses the same principle, "The Electrostatic Loudspeaker", known for its excellent response to high frequencies.

Brown and others claim that this principle is just as applicable in a complete vacuum as in atmosphere. In that connection, I had an odd experience at the NASA center near Baltimore several years ago, while working on a different matter. One of the actual capsules is on display there. Where the pitch, yaw and roll thrusters ought to be, I did not find fuel lines - instead, high voltage insu-

lators. I impulsively said to the guide something like "Oh, I didn't know the Brown propulsion system was that far developed!" A year or so later, a friend visited the same site and says that there are tubing connections where the insulators used to be.

Science operates on the basis that gravity and acceleration are one and the same, like both permanent and electric magnets produce the same exact force field. They say that planetary gravity is like a permanent magnet, rockets like an electric magnet. Two methods of producing the same force field.

Unified field theory says that electrostatic, magnetic and gravitic fields are three manifestations of the same basic phenomenon, and that they all react between each other. The reactions between magnetic fields and gravity/acceleration are easily seen daily in any electric motor. That is, a magnetic field produces acceleration. The interactions between electrostatic fields and electromagnetism are too well known, reduced to engineering formulae, to need elaboration here. The basic interactions between electrostatic voltages and acceleration are well known but not reduced to precise engineering formulae except in the case of electrostatic loudspeakers and electrostatic air filters. But the data thus far accumulated clearly indicate that it is quite possible to develop a thrust system, based on electrostatic voltages applied to specially shaped electrodes, that would do exactly what is ascribed to certain UFO's. In fact, Thomas Townsend Brown's patent is based on just that idea, reduced to lab proof-of-principle models.

I suggest that CRUX readers read Patent number 2,949,550.

UFO investigator and writer William L. Moore has probed the work of T. Townsend Brown. Moore and 2 associates recently met with Brown. It seems one of Brown's primary interests is telluric electricity or "petrovoltaics", as Brown refers to it. It is, essentially, "electricity from rocks". This is reported on in Vol.1, No.1 of Focus, the monthly newsletter of the Fair-Witness Project, Inc. To subscribe to the publication, write: The Fair-Witness Project, Inc.; 4219 W.Olive St., Suite No.247; Burbank, California 91505. There are several membership-levels.

The following is an open letter to UFO investigators and interested parties from a well-known ufologist and academician whose identity is known to us although kept in confidence.

The ex-Jesuit Salvador Freixedo has written some 13 books. The last three books are of extreme importance to all ufologists. Flying Saucer Review editor Gordon Creighton has said that at least the last one is probably the most important book ever written on ufology. It is however most unfortunate that Freixedo (pronounced fray-sheddo) doesn't want the hassle of getting them translated into English; they are all in Spanish. He was for 30 years in the Jesuit Order, and has a most acute & trained mind; therefore, we should make ourselves aware of his arguments and conclusions, because they are most likely to bring us closer to the ultimate truth about the UFOs. There is, however, one main point on which I have to 'part company' from him. That is when he says that Christ was only one of many 'holy men' who have lived on this Earth from time to time. There are too many facts about Christ (which show us that he is far superior to the other 'holy men') for us to come to such a conclusion. But, in his other arguments, Freixedo seems to be very much on the right track.

In his books, he shows that Jehovah at Mt. Sinai was not God; but he was an entity who 'adopted' the Hebrew tribes (or 'contacted' them) for his own purposes. He constantly demanded offerings of great quantities of blood and certain entrails of animals. Fundamentalist Christians tell us that this was in order to foreshadow the 'Blood of Christ'; but somehow this is dubious. If one follows carefully Freixedo's argument, based as it is on solid quotations

from reliable sources, one can not but come to the conclusion that he is probably right. And, now that Jehovah is no longer able to make people sacrifice animals to him, he has to come down (in UFOs) to get the blood and certain entrails for himself - by mutilating thousands of animals, and totally draining them of their blood.

The epilogue to Freixedo's book about Israel is totally disturbing, and should be carefully read by every intelligent person.

He further states that there has to be a spirit realm, between the human realm and the Divine Realm (with this, no average person would quarrel with Freixedo). In this spirit realm there appear to dwell both the 'good' and the 'bad' spirit entities. The history of the world is full of apparent interventions in human affairs, by spirit entities. Sometimes these are obviously for our good; sometimes they appear to be for our harm. The so-called 'bad' spirits are probably only 'bad' in that they neither love us nor do they hate us; they merely wish to 'use' us for their purposes. How do they do this?

Firstly, they need blood and certain entrails, as we have seen. The thousands of cases of animal & human (!) mutilations all around the world testify to this fact.

Secondly, says Freixedo, they appear to benefit from certain high-frequency vibrations given off by animal (& human) brains, when the creatures are in pain, in violent death, in tension, expectation and excitement. Religions and patriotism generate such situations in which excitement, tension, etc. are obtained; and, of course, these situations almost inevitably, ultimately lead to wars, in which 'they' obtain as much blood and violent death and pain as they wish.

It is, therefore, not a mere accident that the Archangel Gabriel 'started' the Christian religion by visiting the Virgin Mary, and later 'started' the rival and hostile Islamic religion by visiting Mohammed. Also, 'they' get excitement and fervor by subtly manipulating us into religious groups and nationalistic groups, without our knowledge. It is no mere accident that we find many groups (religious) under charismatic leaders who foment excitement, and nationalistic groups under paranoid leaders (cf. Hitler, etc.) who lead us so frequently to wars.

The future of the human race looks very gloomy from this viewpoint. It is our choice - to bury our heads in the sand like ostriches, so as not to know anything (a rather unintelligent reaction); or to gain as much knowledge about the spirit activity that is manipulating us without our knowledge, so that we may at least have the chance to resist it, and to see it for what it is. Probably the only safe way to deal with the situation is to have a very strong Religious Faith; nothing else will see us through the future ordeals.

The three books by Salvador Freixedo:

1. La Religion entre la Parapsicología y los OVNIS
2. Israel, Pueblo Contacto
3. Defendamos de los dioses - la culminación del fenómeno OVNI

The author of the "open letter" elaborated for CRUX and provided a summary of Freixedo's works:

In his "isreal" book, beginning from page 86 (Dai-mon 1980 edition; Barcelona, Spain), one finds a section bearing the title THE MYSTERY OF THE BLOOD; and here is a summary of what he says:

Noted is the great importance attributed to blood, by Jehovah and all the other Elohim who "protected" and continue to "protect" certain nations or peoples, as if they were "chosen". One can't quite understand where the logical connection lies between slitting a bullock's throat and giving pleasure to God. It seems that that "god" asks for that kind of sacrifice, becomes appeased in some way, or calms himself through the pain caused to the animal or the shedding of its blood. Three times, God says in Leviticus, Chapter I, "the priest shall burn the animal on the altar as a ... food-offering of soothing odor to the Lord".

The ufonauts are killing with less and less secrecy and in growing numbers, quantities of cattle and other animals. I stress two circumstances, out of the many others: Firstly, they have killed many animals with the only aim of taking away perhaps a portion of the kidneys or other internal organs, leaving the rest of the animal intact. It seems they are seeking something specific in the animals. There is a common denominator: the lack of blood, leaving little or no blood in evidence.

In Ohio, a UFO pursued an ambulance, putting out large "tweezers" with which it apparently intended to raise the ambulance and take it away. Thanks to the driver and the appearance of other vehicles on the road, the ambulance escaped. The key detail of this incident is that this particular ambulance was carrying a load of blood, human blood. In Mexico, the UFOs are called "the witches" and are seen at times during the night hovering here and there. They allegedly suck the blood of newly-born infants at night, so that next morning the children lying by their mothers appear to be anaemic, whilst their mothers appeared to be drugged, taking several days to return to their normal state (CRUX note: According to Freixedo, these incidents occurred in the state of Queretaro. See issue No.10 of our sister-publication, STIGMATA, page 9).

There is a similar account about three Canadian hunters who were found on November 17, 1977, each with wounds in the neck, and totally bereft of blood, on a solitary island in Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba. During the nights preceding this, there had been great UFO activity in all that region.

If one reads carefully the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament), one can not fail to notice the amazing importance given by Jehovah to viscera and blood, to which many paragraphs are dedicated, and in which people are strictly forbidden to drink any blood. Nowadays, when it is manifestly impossible to persuade people to continue sacrificing animals to the gods as they did in olden times, the gods are coming themselves to provide themselves with animal viscera and blood, from which they seem to derive some vital principle, or some form of energy, perhaps so that they may maintain physical form, materialize before us and contact us (This reminds us of the legend wherein the fairies have to mate with humans now and then to keep their kind from petering-out, and the idea that the vampires need human blood to keep their "dead" bodies from putrefaction). This role that viscera, blood, animals' pain and death play may contain much greater importance in the long run, than we at present imagine, and it is something that should be studied carefully.

Jehovah invested all this butchery in a mantle of (pretended) sanctimoniousness. Remember, too - in Genesis IV, 2-5, that Jehovah (Elohim?) accepted Abel's gift of cattle, but rejected Cain's gift of fruits of the earth; again, blood was the key. In Genesis, etc., "god" is called "Elohim", which is plural, and means "The Powerful Ones" who came down from above. Later, "god" is called Edonai (or Adonai). Meanwhile, the sacred name of God in Hebrew was written with the four consonants YHVH. No Jew was allowed ever to utter this name. So, without vowels in it, no one knew how it should be pronounced; therefore they inserted between these 4 consonants the 3 vowels of "Edonai", viz. E-O-A, making YeHoVaH - Jehovah.

It is interesting, too, to notice that "The Lord" appeared to Abraham (Genesis XVII, 1) as three men! And while Jehovah was still talking to Abraham, two of the men walked on towards Sodom. And in chapter XIX, it was two angels who arrived in Sodom, at Lot's house. The more one thinks of all these things, the more one might tend to heed the ancient Jewish legend that it was a sort of cigar-shaped craft that descended upon Mount Sinai.

Velikovsky claimed that we are all suffering from "collective amnesia" because of past cataclysms. At first, this seemed to me a little far-fetched; but now, I am beginning to understand the fanaticism of religious sects. Because, if most of our religions sprang from such "contacts" as those that occurred to Israel in the Old Testament, it is not very surprising that "believers" should cling desperately and fanatically to their pet be-

liefs, because it is a possibility that they may intuitively know that these beliefs rest upon very strange bases. This, then, might be the cause of their fanaticism - a sort of "collective unease", a "collective dim memory" which tells them that all is not well with their religious systems, after all. Yet they don't want to know this, as it would destroy their feelings of security. Velikovsky once said that we "want to know - but not too much".

In other places, Freixedo says a few funny things.

(1) The "god" of the Old Testament seemed to be nearly always in a bad temper - in need of bicarbonate of soda!

(2) That same "god" described himself as a Father, who visits the sins of the parents upon the children of the 3rd and 4th generations. Says Freixedo: with a father like that, why do we need to have a "Satan"?

(3) Freixedo refuses to believe that, at death, his eyes will open upon a "pretty heaven", where he will spend all eternity with all the "elect" (the believers of the various sects who are fanatics). He points out that there are many other people with whom he would rather spend eternity; because the "elect" are really boring people, and the prospect of spending eternity with such a bunch does not altogether cheer him up.

I realize, of course, that some of Freixedo's remarks could be countered by the Fundamentalists, simply by saying that Freixedo is using his "reason", whereas when one thinks of God, one can not judge such things by our puny human intellects - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts".

I feel this man's writings should be read. It is a pity they are solely in Spanish.

The writer goes on to stress that, since the writings of Freixedo and other Spanish-language authors and ufologists could be of such interest and relevance to English-readers, that he strongly recommends acquiring a reading knowledge of Spanish, which, he says, is not all that difficult, given a modicum of patience and perseverance. For that matter, works of potential importance to ufologists and Forteans have appeared in a number of other languages. It's a pity that such writings are "Greek" to the majority of us.

"It is important to know errors. A full understanding of truth is to understand the errors it corrects."

-Mortimer Adler ... author of Ten Philosophical Mistakes. Actually, he told Time (5-6-85) that there are at least 18. He wanted to produce a 200-page book that could sell for maybe \$12.00. To present more "mistakes" would add too many more pages & increase the cost of the book - which he wants to be available to a mass audience. "I hate \$18 books", he said.

Hyperspace is "hot". A world conference on the concept of the fourth dimension was held at Brown University in 1984 (Newsweek, 12-17-84). Instead of thinking of time as the "fourth dimension", it now seems increasingly de rigueur among mainstream cosmologists, mathematicians and Buckaroo Banzai enthusiasts to consider a fourth spatial dimension. This dimension may in fact be, it is hypothesized, the curvature of the universe (yes, they really do consider it plausible that if you directed a laser beam straight ahead, after a few ..illion years, it would illuminate the back of the noggin). Of course, Forteans and ufowits have mused whimsically for years in the pages of Jim Moseley's Saucer Smear (& its predecessors-the only publication where you must become a "non-subscriber" in order to receive it) over the existence of "3½-D" or 3.33-D ("how could anyone leave out "pi-D"- 3.14-D?"). Actually, some physicists are looking into the existence of 11 dimensions (why 11? why not?).

LITE UFOLOGY

We are asking our readers to send us UFO reports involving close encounters, contacts and abductions wherein some or all of the percipients had either just come from or were on their way to play bingo. Perhaps the two most notable UFO events in the Houston, Texas, area have the bingo-link. (1) The Doraty case, 1973, on the south side of the Houston metro area - involving multiple witnesses, a possible multiple abduction, and the abduction and mutilation of a calf. (2) The highly-publicized Cash-Landrum case at the end of 1980, and on the north side of the Houston area. The witnesses had been on their way to play bingo in New Caney, Texas. In the Doraty case, they had left a bingo game. We seem to be zero-ing in on something here. Hey - they don't call us CRUX for nothing. ...O-52!

In the Spring of 1975 Francis Ford Coppola, hot on the heels of having picked up his Oscars for "The Godfather, Part II", announced that he was working with NBC-TV on a TV drama to be broadcast in the fall of 1975. The program would concern the response on Earth to the first contact made by an extraterrestrial being. Wonder whatever became of the project.

"I do not believe that any of the contactees - not even Betty and Barney Hill - have been physically on board an actual 'saucer'. It is more likely that they have taken a nonphysical 'trip', controlled and guided by a system of which we have no clear idea as yet, a system that acts on human consciousness...rather than one that is purely physical."

- Jacques Vallee
"The Case Against UFOs As Spacecraft" in Second Look; February 1979

In early 1985 the Soviet newspaper Trud (described as a trade union daily) reported on a "star-like" UFO which left a green cloud in its wake. It appeared near a Soviet airliner over Minsk. The crew observed as a beam of light from the object struck the ground below from an altitude of 25 to 30 miles (!). The crew said they could see houses and roads illuminated on the ground. The UFO then "escorted" the airliner to its destination, Tallinn, Estonia. Supposedly, Soviets were taken aback not only by the account itself but because it appeared in a publication which "normally purveys news strictly conforming to socialist realism". Not to worry. In April, the Soviet military daily Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) dismissed the airliner "UFO" as "refracted light beams striking floating space garbage, or as bits of discarded rocket showering down through the atmosphere to Earth". Other sightings were debunked, as well. An AP report pointed out that in the USSR belief in "supernatural phenomena" has in the past been "officially discouraged". A 1981 Soviet television documentary torpedoed the existence of UFOs, the Loch Ness Monster and "other mysteries" (sounds like "Nova" would be right at home).

OLD, LOCAL UPOLOGY (?)

In CRUX's hometown of Paris, Texas (yes, just like in the movie), a devastating fire in 1916 destroyed much of the town, including the local newspaper and its files. So we have had to look elsewhere for accounts of pre-1916 weirdness in our area. The following is from the Fort Worth Gazette of September 16, 1889 - datelined Paris, Texas:

Dr. G.M. Stephens, a gentleman of unquestioned veracity, arrived in the city today from Emberson, 12 miles northwest of here, and states that yesterday afternoon he saw a very large balloon, apparently 100 feet in length, with a car attached, several hundred feet in the air and drifting southward. He watched it for a few moments when it disappeared in the clouds. Considerable curiosity has been manifest in the stray air ship as it had not been heard of before or since.

ZOOODDITIES

THE BIRDMAN OF LA JOLLA

Lucius Farish of the UFO Newsclipping Service in Plumerville, Arkansas received a report of a "birdman" seen by three witnesses as they traveled in a car on a freeway near San Diego, California. The sighting occurred in May of 1975; the exact date is unknown.

Tony (a pseudonym) was driving with two companions from San Diego north to nearby La Jolla. It was twilight as they crossed an overpass on the freeway near the La Jolla exit. They noticed a decidedly out-of-the-ordinary creature standing on a fence by the highway.

Whatever it was, it was black, about 4 feet tall and had batlike wings. A split-second of observation passed before they realized it was no bird. The creature's body appeared covered with hair rather than feathers. And the eyes seemed slanted rather than rounded.

The wings seemed much larger than would belong to any bird. Its body was described as "humanoid", and it gave the impression of heaviness. When light from the car's headlights struck the creature, it assumed a squatting position and ejected itself off the fence "with the spring of its legs". It flew upward, flapping its wings, then flew off sideways and out of sight.

The chronicler of the story, a mutual friend of Farish and Tony, learned from Tony that the creature itself was not the only strange thing they noticed. Upon seeing the creature, an "intense fear" overcame all three witnesses. In retrospect, Tony found this "overblown fear" to be most curious.

A hand-traced copy of Tony's sketch of the creature is reproduced below. The dotted line indicates that the wings might have extended farther down than Tony had originally drawn them.



RECENT FAUNAL FALLS

On his radio newscast of May 1, 1985, Paul Harvey reported that, on the weekend of April 27-28, 1985, starfish fell on urban lawns in Minneapolis-St Paul, Minnesota. And on Wednesday, May 8, 1985, more than 30 fish fell onto the back yard of Louis Castorano in Fort Worth, Texas, during unsettled weather conditions.

BEEWARE

The killer bees continue their northward trek. They were to have crossed from Central America into Mexico early in 1985. The Mexican government is investigating ways to stop or impede the rascals, perhaps by cross-breeding them with docile bees.

The Abajo Bushman

A Singular Creature In Utah

Southeastern Utah, USA...

Between the majestic spires and buttes of Monument Valley and the "psychotic landscape" of Canyonlands National Park lie the Abajo (Blue) Mountains, west of Monticello, Utah. Monticello and the Blue Mountains have been a popular mecca for deer hunters over the years, as deer flourish in the cool Abajos, a green island in a sea of arid lands. Other wildlife distributed throughout the area include cougar, bobcat, coyote and black bear. And - perhaps something whose classification eludes us at the moment.

In October of 1959, two deer hunters from Paris, Texas, set out for Monticello, Utah. One man was in his mid-twenties; the other was near 50. The younger man was John Paul Ingram, a veteran hunter and patron of the wilderness, even at that age. Ingram is currently a professional guide, animal trapper and dealer in exotic wildlife from his residence in the Hill Country of Central Texas. He estimates he has probably killed over 500 big game animals in forays to Alaska, Canada, Africa and much of the "Lower 48" of the U.S. Over the past nine years (through mid-1985), Ingram has sold an average of 2500 animals annually. Not only, then, is Ingram an experienced hunter and outdoorsman, but his life is wildlife - truly, an exceptionally-qualified witness for the account described below.

In 1978 Ingram related his story to another wildlife dealer, C.B. Wiley, who also serves as a Justice of the Peace in northeastern Texas. Ingram provided a written account of his experience, witnessed and notarized by Wiley. Ingram's companion on the 1959 hunting trip will be referred to by the pseudonym "Bill Bowman". "Bowman" is well on in years and in poor health. A few years ago, he provided a group of investigators with verbal corroboration of Ingram's account. The following is from Ingram's written statement:

I have never seen a U.F.O., a ghost, a spirit or any other thing, living or dead, that I couldn't explain, identify or otherwise be sure of what it was, with one exception. It has been quite some time since I saw this animal. While relating the story to C.B. Wiley over a steak supper, he asked me to put on paper what I had told him. So here it is, as if it were yesterday:

We were deer hunting in Monticello, Utah in October, around the 15th of the month. It was a Friday, the day before the season opened. I remember because the season always opened on the Saturday nearest the 15th. The year was, to the best of my recollection, 1959.

I was out scouting the mountainous terrain with a good friend of mine, Bill Bowman, from Paris. It was in the early afternoon, around 3:00. The day was slightly overcast, but visibility was excellent. We were in an old Willis Army jeep of about 1942 vintage, with no top. The windshield was down, which was the way we nearly always kept it while hunting or scouting as we were that day. The hunting is more romantic in an open top jeep, with the wind blowing in your face.

We were traveling in an easterly direction on an old mining road going slightly uphill, just having rounded a bend in the road. As we were going up the hill, this animal came from the left to right, across the road. I call it an animal, knowing that no animal of this size, color and build is known to exist, not that I have ever been able to find in any nature book or encyclopedia. I have seen an artist's drawing of a prehistoric man that is about as close as could be. The animal was about the size of a nine-year-old Negro boy. The reason I say Negro boy is that I have been around blacks in east Texas all my life and that is the size and build

that this animal was, about four or four and a half feet tall, as I had nothing to judge him by. There was sage brush on both sides of the road thus giving me nothing to accurately judge him by. It weighed, I would guess, about 70 or 80 pounds, with medium short hair the color of some dogs that I have seen. You might call it a blue color; smokey black might be better.

It had short ears, close to its head, much like human ears. No hair on its face, clear around the face. Its face was similar to a human's, no protruding nose or mouth as seen on made-up animals on the show "Planet of the Apes". Its skin tone on the face was the same color as the hair, only slightly lighter.

The animal walked upright in a slightly forward position, but never touched its hands to the ground. It walked, did not run, but walked at a faster pace than that of a man walking. Its feet were not extra large for its body size, but the arms and legs as well as the fingers of the hands seemed only slightly longer than that of a man, much the same as those of a really skinny nine year old Negro boy. There was no tail and no sign of the stump of a tail. This animal was as near as human in appearance as it could be and not be human. It wore no clothes and its genitals were not visible, so no sex was established. The short hair covered the body, except for the face, ears and hands. The hair had to be $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long.

This animal had to live in a cave or some shelter, because the weather in Utah is real rough in the winter in those mountains. You may wonder how I got such a good description, but as it came from about 12 feet from the left of the road and got in the middle of the road, it stopped and looked straight at us as we approached it.

We were about 100 feet away when I first spotted it, and about 40 feet away when it went out of sight, about 20 feet to the right of the road. There was a downhill slope of about 20 to 30 degrees, with a sharp drop just off the road bed. There was sage brush about knee high on both sides of the road, and the animal went out of sight as it made its way through the sage brush off the side of the road.

We stopped at the top of the hill where it had crossed and I ran out in the sage brush looking around for it because it couldn't have gone far away. The hill was bare of trees for two to three hundred yards. It had to have hidden as soon as it was out of sight, for we were on the spot and out of the jeep in a few seconds.

As we were looking for the animal, Bill Bowman said to me "let's get the hell out of here before its mother comes along". Bill, without saying so, described it as a young animal. It had the appearance of a juvenile. Bill was much older than me. At the time he was about 50. He was driving, it was his jeep, and he wanted to go. He jumped in, started the jeep and said, "if you are going to go with me you had better come on".

It all happened so fast, but I remember it just as if it were yesterday and I had a movie of it. By the way, everyone says "why didn't you get a picture of it?" or "why didn't you shoot it?". First, we were caught by surprise and didn't have time to take a picture. Besides, Bill was driving and I was busy looking. And it was the day before the deer season opened and our guns were in camp.

The reason we didn't go back and look was that nobody in camp believed us. They thought that we only made it up. When they saw that we were really serious, they started giving us explanations like it was probably a bear or wolverine, or something of that sort. You know, logical explanations to the effect that whatever we saw was something else, and could be logically explained.

Well, I am here to tell you, I saw a human-like animal and I know, without a doubt, that it is exactly like I described it, for I have been in the woods a great deal of my life and have never come close to seeing something that I didn't know what it was. I would be more than happy to take a lie detector test or a cross examination by anyone to prove that I saw what I saw.

A TEXAS SKYEALL?

We'll begin to draw this issue of CRUX to a close, much in the manner in which we began it - with flashing lights, a roaring sound and something interacting with the ground - and again from that veritably pyrotechnic year of 1983 - an event not nearly on the scale of the "Gallup Incident", but just as inscrutable nonetheless.

The date was Tuesday, July 12th, 1983. The site was a pasture on the prairie near the rural communities of Bynum, Malone and Irene in Hill County, Texas, between Dallas/Fort Worth and Waco. We will first examine the media coverage, much of which will then require correction and elaboration. The investigation - and the news coverage - did not begin until the following week. The initial article in the *Waco Tribune-Herald*, in fact, did not appear until Thursday, July 21, 1983. It said, in part:

Officials from Baylor University's Strecker Museum and the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History will inspect "punctures" discovered last week by a farmer, who says they're not the work of animals. The farmer discovered two holes about 30 feet apart on a farm he rented near Bynum. Each hole was in the center of a "roughed up" area about five feet in diameter. One hole is between 30 and 36 inches deep and the other is filled with loose dirt.

"I was checking my maize and happened to run up on it", the farmer said. His first thought was that the hole was dug during seismological testing by an oil company, but his landlord said no oil company had contracted to test there. "Then I thought that lightning could have struck it, but I've never seen where (it) made that big of a hole. Usually lightning will leave a 5 to 15-foot burned area, but no hole!" He said there are no tracks around the two sites, and grass is growing up to the perimeters of the two disturbed areas.

The farmer said he hasn't touched the holes, but said a Hill County Sheriff's deputy took a soil sample that was discovered to contain low-level radiation. Calvin Smith, director of the Strecker Museum, said the farmer showed him photographs of the holes. But Smith said he was unable to determine much because of the poor quality of the shots. Smith said the two holes - if caused by extraterrestrial material - indicate the meteor broke up shortly before striking the earth. "It is very rare to see a meteor where the earth is still disturbed", said Smith... "Usually meteorites are found hundreds or thousands of years later".

John Williams, director of the Omni Theater of the Fort Worth Museum..., who is with a museum group that "chases" meteor fireballs, said he has questions about the authenticity of the finding, based on what he was told about the site. "Often it (a meteor) doesn't make a crater when it hits - it just bounces on the ground", Williams said. He said the atmosphere slows the meteor's fall to the point "it's like a rock dropped from an airplane". He said reports that one of the holes is 24 inches deep (*sic*) makes it more unlikely that it was caused by a meteor, because an untilled pasture probably wouldn't be that soft.

Gathering at the site that Thursday, the 21st, were Calvin Smith, assistant museum director David Lintz, and researcher Margaret Graham of the Strecker Museum in Waco, plus John Williams and Bob Garland of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, along with Walter Zettler, identified as the farmer who discovered the "holes", and a battery of reporters and photographers. A radiation specialist from the Temple, Texas, office of the Bureau of Radiation Control (an arm of the Texas Department of Health) tested the area for radiation. The examiner, Clarence Dittman, announced that the area was safe.

On Monday, July 25, 1983, the *Mirror*, a newspaper in the Hill County seat of Hillsboro, reported on the on-site investigation:

...One of the craters, which was four feet in diameter, had about an eight-inch cylinder-like hole approximately three feet deep in the center. The second crater was approximately the same size with-

out the cylinder-like center. The holes were located about 20 feet apart. Calvin Smith... stated the first hole appeared to be an auger-type hole. He added he could not explain the appearance of the second hole.... According to Zettler, neither he nor his landlord had any knowledge of anyone being in the area and digging holes. "If there was someone down here, they didn't have permission and there are no tracks around the holes indicating drilling", Zettler said.

From the *Waco Tribune-Herald* of July 22, 1983, after Williams and the others had totally ruled out a meteoric cause for the phenomenon:

Those who slaved in the field most of the afternoon said they weren't disappointed. But they admitted a meteor find would have been especially nice, since they had just returned from an investigative mission to Gatesville, where a reported meteorite turned out to be a plain old rock. ... "As a member of the museum, we're always glad to go out to possible phenomena", (Margaret Graham) said. "We're not disappointed if we don't find anything. This is the way many important discoveries are made".

Further, reporter Laura Albrecht wrote in the July 24, 1983 edition of the *Corsicana, TX, Daily Sun*:

For over an hour, they dug, poked, measured and talked. Was it or wasn't it a site where meteorites... had plunged to earth? The announcement came from (Calvin) Smith. No, it was the opinion of the experts meteorites had no caused the holes. But what had? Possibly the drilling device used by a seismograph crew had caused the circular, grooved (*sic*) holes. Or maybe it was an animal. Whatever it was, Smith and his museum staff wanted a closer look.

For the next three hours, the digging continued. Smith, covered with dirt and sweat, began to dig. Careful not to damage the original hole, and with the help of Lintz, Smith continued to dig and hope.

Meanwhile, Zettler still wanted to know what had hit the field. He said although the land had been leased for oil exploration, no testing was supposed to be going on at this time. His wife made a phone call to the Houston company that had conducted tests in the past. No, they had not had any crews on the site and they wanted to know the outcome of the museum's findings.

The use of a backhoe would speed up the digging, but where to find one. Zettler had a neighbor with one and he dashed off to find him. But a few minutes later, Zettler returned with the news his friend could not be found. Maybe the backhoe would be available for Friday morning, Zettler said, adding he would check with his friend.

In the meantime, Smith continued to dig. Eyes strained from curious onlookers waiting to see anything that might hint at providing an explanation.

Just as Smith was about to call it quits for the day and wait until Friday morning to use the backhoe, M. W. Wines came rambling through the pasture on his backhoe. With the touch of a surgeon and direction from Smith, Wines began to dig. Smith several times halted the backhoe digging to continue the tedious job of shoveling himself. The museum staff did find two frogs and one ground squirrel for their digging efforts. But no meteorites.

"There are still too many things left unexplained", Lintz said as he packed soil samples to be tested by the Baylor University chemistry and geology lab.

Although there was a mood of disappointment, Ms. Graham remained optimistic. "We can't pass things like this up", she said. "It might turn into the find of the century". She said it was the job of the museum staff to investigate calls of unexplained scientific occurrences(*sic*).

As it turned out, there had been reason to suspect a meteoric-like cause for the event. About three nights before Zettler made his discovery in the pasture, two of his neighbors had experiences. One man was outside his house when he heard a sudden roaring noise which he suspected must be from a jet aircraft going over. Just as suddenly, there was a flash of light that "lit up his yard real bright".

That neighbor lived about 2-2½ miles from the field where the "holes" would be found. A second neighbor was in his house at the same time. He did not report a roar, but he saw the light from his window as it illuminated the surroundings.

Zettler had been in the leased pasture about 6 days before his discovery, and the "holes" were not present. It can only be speculated that there might be a connection between the light, the roar and the disturbance in the pasture.

In interviews with CRUX, both Walter Zettler and David Lintz of the Strecker Museum remained puzzled by the event which occurred almost two years before.

We attempted to obtain a more definitive description of just what was to be found in the pasture. It would seem that there were not two "holes", nor were there two "craters". Photos provided by Walter Zettler aided in our comprehension of the event.

The "craters" were more accurately described as "disturbed areas", where the soil was chaotically upturned and disrupted in the two areas, which were about 1 to 2 feet across.

Only one of these "disturbed areas" contained a "hole". This was the cylinder-like hole described in the press. Zettler maintains, as was reported at the time, that the hole was perhaps 8 inches across at the top. Lintz, however, disagrees, referring to a diameter of approximately 4 inches at best. Both agreed that there seemed to be a slight narrowing of the hole as it descended to its depth of about one yard.

Zettler reports that there was a "white substance" that could be seen around the top of the hole and extending down along the inside walls of the hole to a depth of about 18 inches. We asked Lintz about the analysis of the soil and the white substance. The Institute of Archaeology laboratory at Baylor University conducted the analysis, including thermoluminescence and clay mineralogy. Nothing was found that could be described as atypical of the soils in the area. The "white substance" appeared to be discolored soil. It had the appearance, according to Lintz, of dirt that had been wet and had then dried out.

The second disturbed area was similar in appearance but it contained no well-defined "holes", but a series of cracks extending into the ground at various angles. The hole at the first site, in fact, did not go straight into the ground, but extended down at an angle of approximately 15 to 20 degrees from the vertical.

Lintz explained that the backhoe was used to dig beside and then below the primary hole, in an attempt to expose a cross-section of the hole. Lintz maintains that there did appear to be "grooves" in the sides of the hole, as though it were augered. But Zettler says these "grooves" were not that obvious or readily apparent. Even Lintz reports that, once the cross-section of the hole was exposed, the grooves were not as noticeable as they had seemed to be from above. Absolutely no trace of anything meteoric or anything else tell-tale was found in the hole. The two narrow-mouth toads and one ground squirrel were found alive in or near the bottom of the hole.

Just another little mystery likely never to be explained with any finality.

THE EDUCATION OF THE XENOLOGIST

by Kim L. Neidigh

Xenology is the scientific study of strange and unexplained phenomena. Its subject matter crosses the borders of all other sciences, concentrating on the controversial topics in each.

The content of xenology can be divided into three major categories:

1. Anomalies of a purely psychological nature
2. Anomalies of a purely physical nature
3. Anomalies which appear to involve the interaction of the psyche with the environment

The xenologist, as one studying the vast realm of anomalous phenomena, should possess as broad an education as possible. More than any other scientist, he should be a true Renaissance man. Of course, no

one individual can be an authority in every field. He should strive, however, to be aware of any subject which may have particular relevance to his research.

The following is a listing of topics within certain fields of human knowledge which every xenologist should be familiar with.

1. Religion -- knowledge of the myths common to all religions
2. Philosophy -- metaphysics, logic, philosophy of science, epistemology
3. Psychology -- fundamental principles, perception, hypnosis, parapsychology, abnormal psychology
4. Anthropology -- the evolution of man
5. Archaeology -- fundamental principles
6. Sociology -- fundamental principles, crowd behavior, statistics
7. Astronomy -- fundamental principles, meteors and meteorites, comets, pulsars, quasars, blackholes
8. Physics -- fundamental principles, relativity, antimatter, tachyons
9. Chemistry -- fundamental principles, acids and bases
10. Geology -- knowledge of common rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, geomagnetism, seismology, volcanoes, geologic time, paleontology
11. Meteorology -- fundamental principles, cloud structure and formation, types of storms
12. Biology -- evolution, genetics, taxonomy, carnivorous plants, geographic distribution of wildlife, tracking methods
13. History -- knowledge of major historical events, folklore and legends, background of historical xenology
14. English -- basic grammar, methods of academic research, technical writing

No one expects the researcher to begin his/her career knowing everything mentioned above. That is why a well-stocked library is essential. The aspiring xenologist should maintain in his vast collection, along with the works of Fort, Sanderson and Hynek, textbooks on every conceivable area of knowledge. There is no way of knowing what information may be vital to an investigation. Be prepared for anything.

In Time Magazine's edition of February 7, 1983, the list of the top ten best selling books of fiction included:

1. 2010: Odyssey Two (Clarke)
2. Master of the Game (Sheldon)
3. Space (Michener)
4. Mistral's Daughter (Krantz)
5. The Valley of Horses (Auel)
6. Foundation's Edge (Asimov)
7. Life, the Universe and Everything (Adams)
8. The Fall of Freddie the Leaf (Buscaglia)
9. Battlefield Earth (Hubbard)
10. E.T. The Extraterrestrial Storybook (Kotzwinkle)

Surely an occurrence not to be seen before or since, wherein seven of the top ten best sellers were either space, science fiction or fantasy tomes (if the categorization can be stretched enough to include Auel's Valley of Horses).

We welcome and encourage contributions from our readers, whether in the form of articles, essays or letters. No monetary payment can be offered. However, you can be assured of a lifetime subscription to CRUX (that's our life, not yours, unless you precede our passing), for whatever that's worth (and that's debatable). We are primarily interested in UFO, Fortean and cryptozoological material - but not necessarily nor exclusively. Get in touch.

UNGUARANTEED OBSERVATIONS

FACT-FINDING AND RUMOR-MONGERING TO FEED AND NURTURE THE FESTERING PROCLIVITIES OF INFORMATION-FREAKS AND FACT-FIENDS EVERYWHERE, FROM DES MOINES TO DUBUQUE, FROM BROOKLYN TO THE BRONX, FROM DALLAS TO FORT WORTH, FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON, FROM ZIMBABWE TO RHODESIA, FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE, FROM ADAM WEST TO CLINT EASTWOOD, FROM JAY NORTH TO TERRY SOUTHERN, FROM THE TERRACE, FROM THE TOP, FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE RIDICULOUS...

Does the Federal Aviation Administration maintain (or un-maintain) "no-man's lands" - areas of thousands of acres wherein no FAA jurisdictions exist and no FAA regulations are enforced? One such area is said to exist near Waterloo, Iowa, over sparsely-populated farmland. All sorts of aerial tests are said to be run here, with airlines sometimes bringing airliners in from the coasts to test them in this "no man's land".....Syndicated columnist Dave Barry is usually good for a titter, often a chortle. He advocates the federal government establish a Useless Species List, with an official policy of endangering everything on it. His first candidate(s) would be grubs, which Barry describes as "writhing blobs of underground slime the color of spoiled mayonnaise".....The Big UFO Case over the past few years has been the event(s) in England variously termed the Rendlesham Forest Case, the Bentwaters Affair, the Woodbridge Incident or the Peripatetic Lighthouse. It's a fascinating story of scintillating implications, now undoubtedly clogged with mis-and-dis-information, purposeful and otherwise. One book has been published on the subject in England: *Skycrash*, by Butler, Street and Randles (Neville Spearman, 1984). *Skycrash* is available in the U.S. from Arcturus Book Service (263 N. Ballston Avenue; Scotia, New York 12302) or from William L. Moore (4219 W. Olive St., Suite No. 247; Burbank, California 91505). TV viewers in the U.S. may have seen investigative reporter Chuck de Caro's series of reports on the Bentwaters case on the Cable News Network in early 1985. It was solid reporting, but de Caro could only cover a small part of the story. Any hope for a CNN follow-up on the case was apparently quashed by a higher-up at CNN, who wanted to avoid CNN becoming known as a "UFO Network".....TV viewers might want to check out a documentary titled "When The World Was Wide", which has been showing periodically on PBS (Public Broadcasting) channels. Two UFOs are reportedly seen on film in the broadcast.....Many recall the devastating tornado which struck Barneveld, Wisconsin in 1984. A Barneveld man's driver's license was found a hundred miles away in Appleton, Wisconsin. The remainder of his wallet was found intact in Barneveld (source: Knowledge Unlimited, Inc.).....Recommended reading: *Clear Intent*, by Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood (Prentice-Hall, 1984) - regarding what the government's own documents, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, reveal about the government's perspective on UFOs and its cover-up of the UFO experience. Autographed copies of the quality-paperback edition of *Clear Intent* are available for \$8.95 plus \$1.50 postage from: Unicorn Limited; P.O. Box 651; Coventry, Connecticut 06238. Some preliminary investigative results regarding the Bentwaters case are presented in *Clear Intent*. Fawcett & Greenwood are writing a follow-up book, which will reportedly include much more on Bentwaters/Rendlesham. A television movie-a docudrama- based on the Bentwaters accounts - is also in the works.....Two friends, feeling no pain, were talking in a hotel bar one night. One was a former moonwalking astronaut. His tongue increasingly loosened by liquor, the ex-astronaut allegedly described UFO sightings his team had made on the way to the moon, on the moon, and on the way back to earth. The two crossed paths the next day. The ex-astronaut refused to talk further about the UFOs, even refusing to acknowledge, in the hard light of day, that he had even talked about it the previous night.....Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, just east of St. Louis, is alleged to possess a massive computerized data bank of UFO information. Anyone know more?.....Whatever became of the "Mojave Spires", 5,000 cone or pyramid-shaped objects, made of clay and talc, that were discovered in a dry lake bed in California's Mojave Desert in early 1975? Was their origin ever determined? Someone reported an explosion over the lake bed at about that time. Was it a Cristo project?....

We would like to offer our apologies to those among you in all walks of life (why "walks"? Should include runs, as well. Suppose that would include run-of-the-mill, run-down...well, you know who you are) ...anyway, we apologize for our delay in getting CRUX out. Unless circumstances deem otherwise, we anticipate that the next CRUX will be, at least for the most part, a "theme" issue. It has already taken shape conceptually and we have much of the data for the issue on hand, but we will continue to seek clarification and additional information where some subjects (within the "theme") are concerned. It is frustrating to be unable to publish the second issue soon after the first; but we are dating the next CRUX 1986, since it could be sometime during the first half of that year before CRUX #2 is published. A publication announcement will be made. To be honest about it, we intended to incorporate STIGMATA into this edition of CRUX. However, although animal mutilation reports have waned over the last few years, they have not ceased; and we soon found that we had more than enough material to warrant (to compel, actually) our publishing a full-fledged STIGMATA. It will be published during the last half of 1985.....Paul Ehrlich's *The Population Bomb* was published in 1968. Since then, Ehrlich and his wife and co-author Anne Ehrlich have continued to champion environmental activism and to warn of a looming and all-too-easily attainable ecological doom. The Ehrlichs and 13 like-minded scientists and scholars recently held a conference at Texas A&M University (which will publish a proceedings). The conferees are calling themselves "Cassandras", after the Trojan princess who was "blessed with the gift of divine prophecy and cursed because no one would believe her" (she's the one who warned of "greeks bearing gifts").....Remember the famous (or infamous) "Aurora (Texas) Airship Crash" of 1897? A motion picture based on the story was filmed in the Dallas area in late 1984. It stars Jack Palance, Peter Brown, C&W singer Dottie West and, yes, "Spanky" McFarland.....More from the Hollywood luke-warm-line: Watch for "The Twilight Zone" on TV this fall. Would you believe Wes Craven's involved in that (he's the guy who did "Last House on the Left" and "The Hills Have Eyes")? Should be interesting. Then there's "Amazing Stories", also to be a series this fall. Steven Spielberg is the guiding hand here. Word is that "Stories" is done in a more "pulp" comic or magazine style than is "Zone". The very early word on some Hollywood features to watch for: there is "Elixer", about a secret think-tank working to reverse the aging process by experimenting with urban derelicts - and, from Disney, "Navigator", somehow involving a boy, time travel and UFOs.....A book of interest is Peter Matthiessen's *In The Spirit of Crazy Horse* (Viking Press, U.S.; Penguin Books, Canada; 1983). The book is devoted largely to the 1975 shoot-out between federal agents and American Indians on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Included are accounts of Bigfoot sightings on reservations. The various tribes involved term him/her/it "rugaru" (possibly a corruption of the French-Canadian "loup-garou" or were-wolf), "Onk-cegi" (you may not want to know what that means), or simply "the Big Man".....Publications of the periodical kind that are of interest (contact them directly for prices, sample copies): Bigfoot Co-Op; 14602 Montevideo Drive; Whittier, CA 90605....MUFON UFO Journal; 103 Oldtowne Road; Seguin, TX 78155-4099....The APRO Bulletin; 3910 E. Kleindale Road; Tucson, Arizona 85712....Shavertron (as in Richard Shaver); P.O. Box 248; Vallejo, CA 94590.....Spiral Mobius; 347 N. Union St.; Kennett Square, PA 19348....Brunt; c/o Libre School Inc.; P.O. Box 0; Farisita, CO 81037....Fortean Times; 96 Mansfield Road; London NW3 2HX England....Just Cause (ed./publ. by the authors of *Clear Intent*) P.O. Box 218; Coventry, CT 06238....hot books: *The Rebirth of Pan* by Jim Brandon (Firebird Press, 1983).*Mysterious America* by Loren Coleman (Faber & Faber, 1983). A new Coleman book is to be published by Faber & Faber in Fall 1985.....What was the "3rd secret of Fatima", the one Pope John XXIII refused to reveal in 1960? Please write and give us your opinion.....More fascinating reading: *Critique A Journal of Conspiracies & Metaphysics*; P.O. Box 11451; Santa Rosa, CA 95406.....Check out *Omni* for March 1985 - the "Mars" special issue - the curiously un-bylined article on the photos of the apparent "face", "pyramid" and other structures on Mars - Was there an "official" attempt to suppress the article, thwarted only because the printing process was already under way? and, if so - why?.....